

BUSINESS / B4-4

What's 'pinakbet'
without eggplant?
Ask Villasis folk

Top boy scout searches
Net for Japanese father

By Gabriel Cardinosa
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD Asuka Toyoshima stays in cybercafés for hours surfing the Net for sites or links that could lead him to his Japanese father, Yoshihito.

Toyoshima was just 3 years old when his

TOP BOY SCOUT/A19

METRO / A25

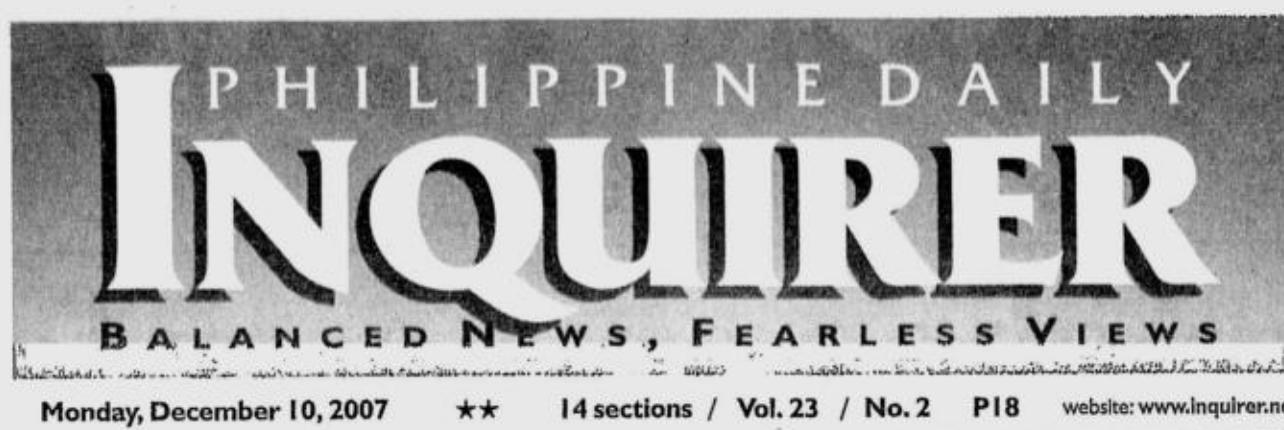
Religious group
members disappointed:
No cash from leader

ENTERTAINMENT / G1

RP's Mau Marcelo
leads in 'Asian Idol'
online survey

NEWS / A2

Palace places
amnesty for Reds
high on Ledac agenda

PDI to grant wishes
of 22 loyal readers

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PDI/A18

Emir spares Pinay's life

Grants GMA plea for death convict

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo last night saved Marilou Ranario from the gallows after the Chief Executive secured from the Kuwaiti ruler a commutation of the Filipino maid's death sentence to life imprisonment for killing her Arab employer, Malacañang announced.

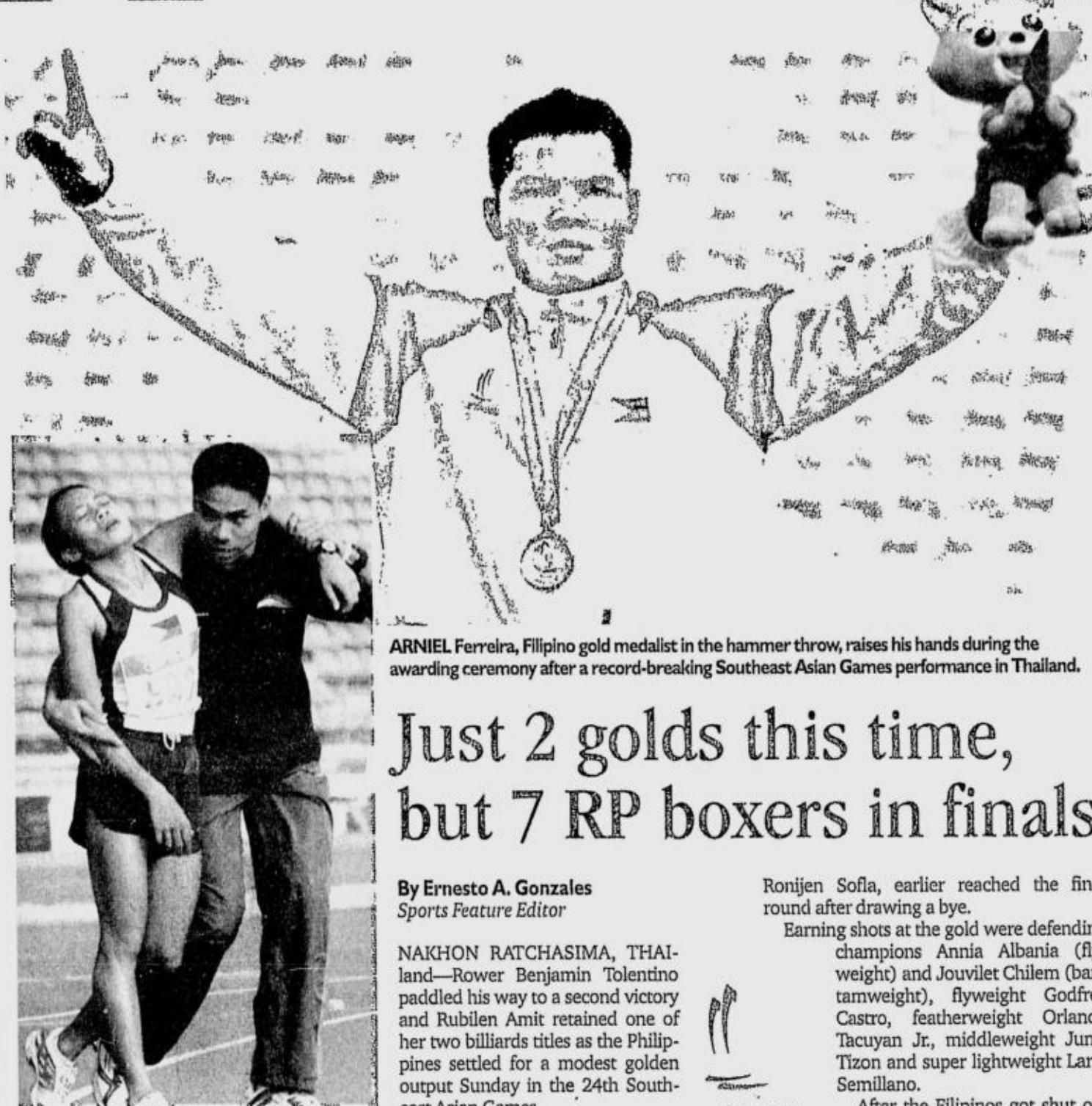
In a statement, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye quoted Sheik Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah as telling the President during a 25-minute meeting in his palace that "normally, I don't interfere in the judicial process."

"But since you are here to personally appeal for her, I will not sign the decree of execution. That is within my power ... I will reduce the penalty to life and when the other parties sign the forgiveness, I will further reduce the penalty," said the emir, according to Bunye.

Ms Arroyo thanked the emir for his "compassion," said Bunye. She also agreed to stay overnight in Kuwait upon the ruler's invitation and return home on Tuesday instead of today as earlier scheduled.

The President flew to Kuwait yesterday en route home from an eight-day official visit to Spain and Britain and a pilgrimage.

EMIR SPARES/A8



ARNIEL Ferreira, Filipino gold medalist in the hammer throw, raises his hands during the awarding ceremony after a record-breaking Southeast Asian Games performance in Thailand.

Just 2 golds this time, but 7 RP boxers in finals

By Ernesto A. Gonzales
Sports Feature Editor

NAKHON RATCHASIMA, THAILAND—Rower Benjamin Tolentino paddled his way to a second victory and Rubilen Amit retained one of her two billiards titles as the Philippines settled for a modest golden output Sunday in the 24th Southeast Asian Games.

Six fighters advanced to the boxing finals against Thais, and as if to give the Filipinos a glimpse of what to expect there, Kaeo Pongprayoon outclassed flyweight Bill Vicera, 24-2.

A seventh Filipino boxer, featherweight

Ronjen Sofia, earlier reached the final round after drawing a bye.

Earning shots at the gold were defending champions Anna Albania (flyweight) and Jouvilet Chilim (bantamweight), flyweight Godfrey Castro, featherweight Orlando Tacuyan Jr., middleweight Junie Tizon and super lightweight Larry Semillano.

After the Filipinos got shut out of the marathon gold medal for the first time in four SEAG, Tolentino lifted his countrymen's spirits by adding the men's lightweight single sculls gold to an earlier triumph in the double sculls with

JUST 2 GOLDS/A18

Climate change spawns bugs, drought

By Lina Sagral-Reyes
Inquirer Mindanao

(First of two parts)

COLOMBIO, SULTAN KUDARAT—After two years at an evacuation center, Manamba and his family came back in 2005 to resettle in their remote village of Makat here, only to face another kind of struggle.

This time, Manamba is fighting black bugs in his rice farm and drought. Like the others in

this agricultural town, he felt defeated.

There is nothing dramatic here like the cleaving of icebergs or the melting of glaciers that former US Vice President Al Gore exposed in his award-winning documentary on global warming.

But the weird weather has begun to affect in subtle ways the lives of rural folk in the Autonomous Region in Muslim

Mindanao (ARMM), particularly those rebuilding their lives after being displaced by the separatist war.

Manamba barely harvested 30 sacks of rice from his two-hectare farm this month. He used to get 70-80 cavans per hectare over the past 10 years. And as a result, he is saddled with debts from the fertilizers and pesticides he had used.

He also still has to pay the hospital bills incurred when his wife got sick after giving birth to a stillborn child that was to have been their seventh.

In the past, Manamba could tell when the rains would fall, how the winds would blow.

"The rains used to come during these last months of the year, but recently, we have had warm nights," he says. "During

CLIMATE/A13

US, China not ready on gas caps

BALI, INDONESIA—THE world's top two polluters, the United States and China, say they are not ready to commit to mandatory caps on global-warming gases at the UN climate conference on Bali. But that does not seem to worry Yvo de Boer, who says it is too early to hammer out that kind of deal.

"This meeting is not about delivering a fully negotiated climate change deal, but it is to set the wheels in motion," the UN climate chief said, as presidents, prime ministers and environmental ministers prepared to join discussions on how to head off the effects of rising temperatures, from expanding oceans to deadly droughts and diseases.

"Reaching a conclusion even in two years is going to be very ambitious, let alone trying to achieve that kind of result in two weeks."

The main negotiating text for the Dec. 3-14 meeting—which was obtained by The Associated Press on Saturday—mentions targets for reducing the amount

US, CHINA/A12



JV sees 'painful' meet with GMA at TOYM rites

By Kristine L. Alave

IF ERAP CAN SPORT A WRIST-band, perhaps his son could wear gloves?

San Juan City Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, who has won a prestigious award for public service, is facing a dilemma. Should he shake the hands of, and accept the trophy from, the woman he has accused of plotting his father's fall from power and whom the Estrada family consider their main political enemy?

Ejercito, son of ousted President Joseph Estrada, was chosen one of The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of 2007, an award handed out by the

JV SEES/A8

Bohol folk protect seahorse sanctuary

By TJ Burgoño

AFTER SUNDOWN, TOURISTS travel by boat to Jandayan Island off Bohol and go diving to look at the luminous seahorses swimming among the coral in the dark waters.

For over 10 years, the seahorses have thrived in the waters off Getafe town in Jandayan, along with fish and other marine life.

The fisherfolk and officials of

make this possible. They banded together to put up, manage and protect a marine sanctuary out in the sea since 1995 despite meager resources and little support from the national government.

The sanctuary has been adjudged the most outstanding marine protected area (MPA) in the country by the MPA Support Network (MSN), a multisectoral alliance of organizations seeking to protect the marine environment.

"To a large extent, they have



SEAHORSE rests in a protected coral stable in Bohol. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers while the eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laog	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gon. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

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Second FRONT PAGE

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Palace pushes amnesty for Reds

Seeks backing of Congress in order to help peace process

WHAT'S INSIDE

CA RULES

quadriplegic raped girl

/A10

ANIMAL RIGHTS

groups protest dolphin show

/A7

SUMILAO

farmers get Church backing

/A6

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG WANTS THE SENATE AND THE House of Representatives to give their concurrence to a proposed presidential proclamation that would grant amnesty to communist rebels before Congress goes on a holiday break.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday the Legislative-Executive Advisory Development Council (Ledac) would convene tomorrow with the proposed presidential proclamation on the amnesty for rebels on top of the agenda.

Ermita said President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is expected back in Manila today following a trip to Europe and Kuwait, called for the Ledac meeting to push for the approval of important measures in the last session days of Congress this year.

He said that high on the

agenda was the presidential proclamation on an amnesty for members of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA).

Return to fold

"We're extending the amnesty for insurgents who wish to return to the fold of the law," Ermita said in a phone interview.

The amnesty proposal, which requires the concurrence of the Senate and the House, would help the peace process and the resumption of peace talks be-

tween government and the CPP-National Democratic Front, according to Ermita.

"Imagine if 10-15 percent of the insurgents would avail themselves of the amnesty, that would be a big thing," Ermita said.

It would be the first time the Arroyo administration extended an amnesty to communist rebels, Ermita said. He noted that similar amnesty proclamations were issued during the terms of Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada.

The amnesty proclamation will cover members of the CPP and the NPA, other communist rebel groups and their umbrella organization, the National Democratic Front.

Coverage

Under the proclamation, the amnesty will cover the crime of rebellion and all other crimes "in pursuit of politi-

cal beliefs," but not including crimes against chastity, rape, torture, kidnapping for ransom, use and trafficking of illegal drugs, and other crimes for personal ends and violations of international law or convention and protocols "even if alleged to have been committed in pursuit of political beliefs."

President Arroyo had earlier vowed to wipe out the 39-year-old communist insurgency before she steps down in 2010.

Budget, medicine

Aside from the amnesty proposal, Ermita said the President would also push for approval of the proposed P1-trillion national budget for 2008 and the Cheaper Medicine Act.

"At the very least, the President might thank Congress for the budget approval because we were informed that

Congress intends to pass the budget before the Christmas break," the executive secretary said.

In a statement read before the video conference with her Cabinet national security cluster, President Arroyo called on Congress to focus its attention on passing the budget, the cheaper medicine bill, amendments to the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) and amnesty for rebels.

"Huwag natin hayaang mapinsala ng gulo noong isang linggo ang milyun-milyon nating kababayan na naghahintay ng imparastraatura, murang gamot at koryente, kapayapaan at kaunlaran (We should not allow the disturbance the other week to jeopardize the clamor of millions of our countrymen for infrastructure, cheaper medicine, peace and progress)," the President said.

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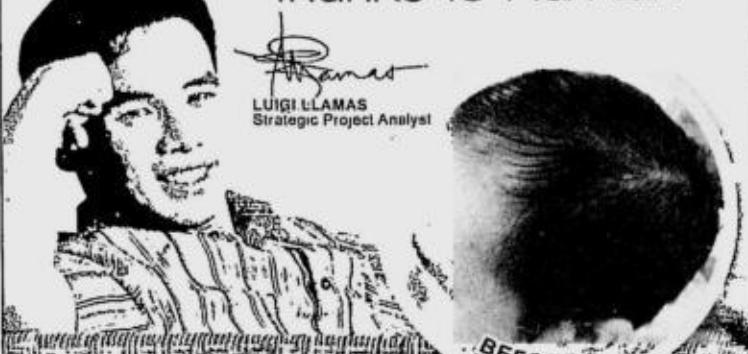
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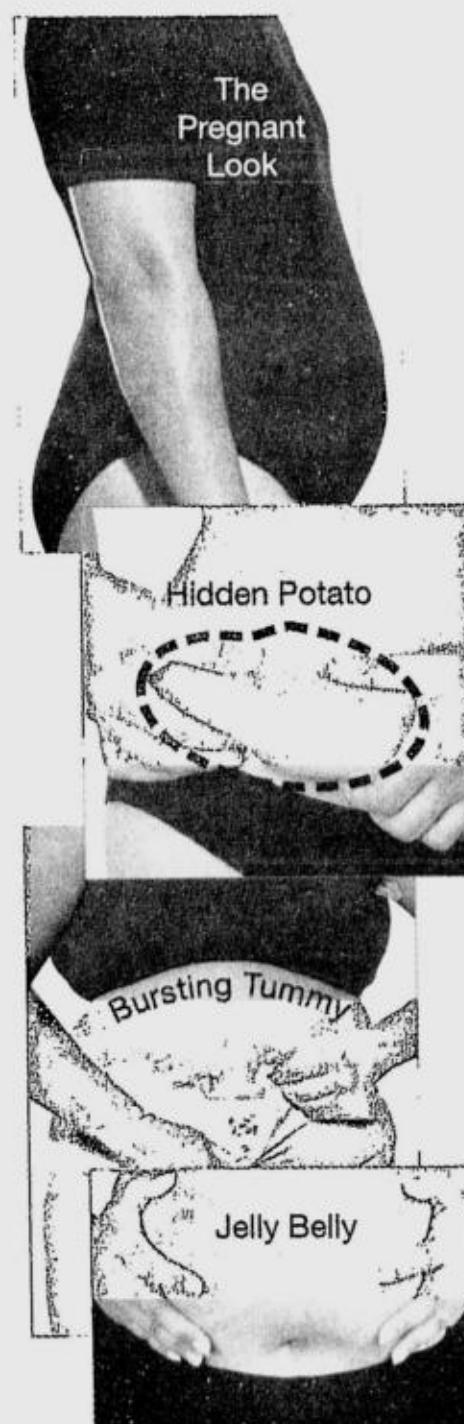
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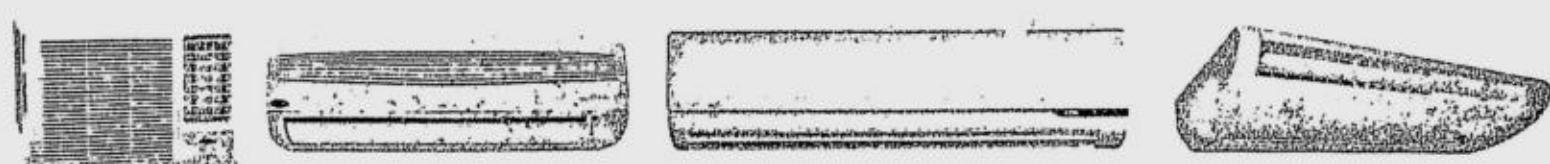
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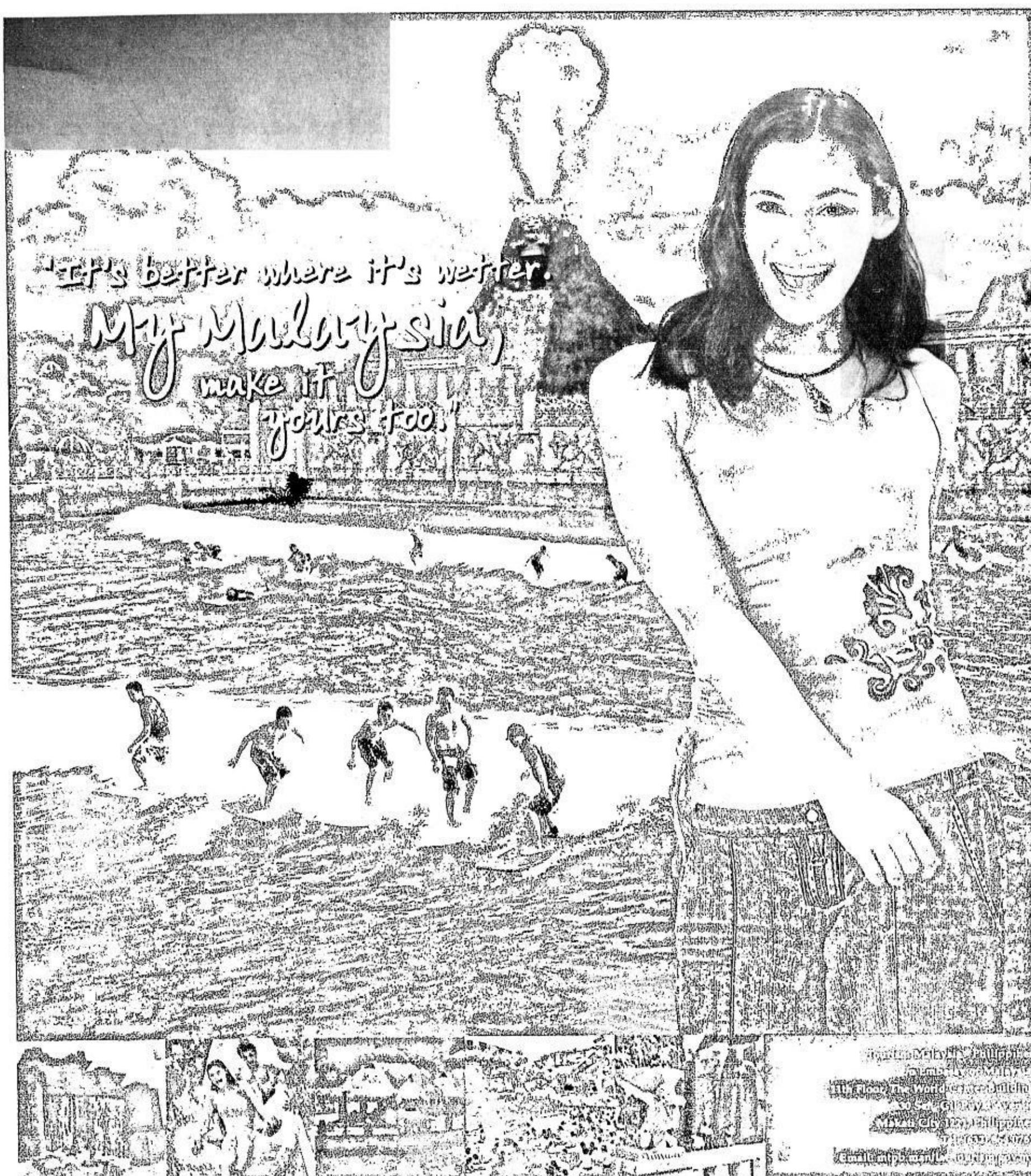
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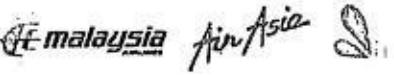
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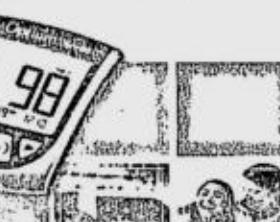
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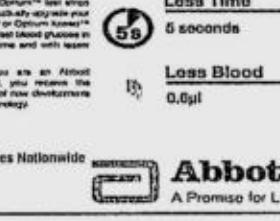
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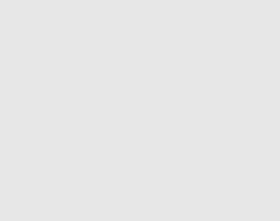




















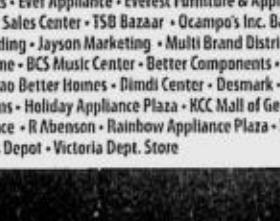


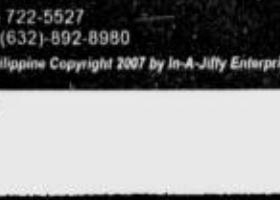












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Animal rights groups rap Pasig dolphin show

SEVERAL ANIMAL RIGHTS groups yesterday banded together and called for a boycott of the traveling dolphin show at Metrowalk Shopping Center in Pasig City, decrying what they called the inhumane treatment of its four show animals.

About 25 members of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society, Earth Island Institute-Philippines, Kalikasan Society and Agham held a mock dolphin show near the gates of the Wonderful World of Dolphins to illustrate how the dolphins were starved during their training.

The organizers of the show, however, insisted their dolphins, Tooty and Fruity, and sea lions, Jello and Jumbo, were well cared for.

Gogoy Avelino, an officer of producer Movers and Shakers Inc., said the dolphins were bred in captivity and, if released in the ocean, would not survive. He said they were fed regularly, given vitamins and received medical care.

Avelino said the show had a

permit from the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna.

He said that since he started bringing the show to the Philippines in the '80s, no dolphin or sea lion has been hurt.

But Trixie Concepcion, EEI-Philippines coordinator, said the group learned dolphins like those in the show were taken from the waters of Indonesia. She said they were starved when they were taught tricks and then rewarded with food when they learned the routines.

The group said traveling dolphin shows were smaller operations compared to ocean parks and had inferior facilities. The pools were shallower and the water dirty and chlorinated, causing blindness to saltwater creatures, they said.

Traveling and performing for crowds cause the animals much stress, the group said in a statement.

They called on the public not to watch the show, pointing out that these had been banned in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Kristine L. Alave

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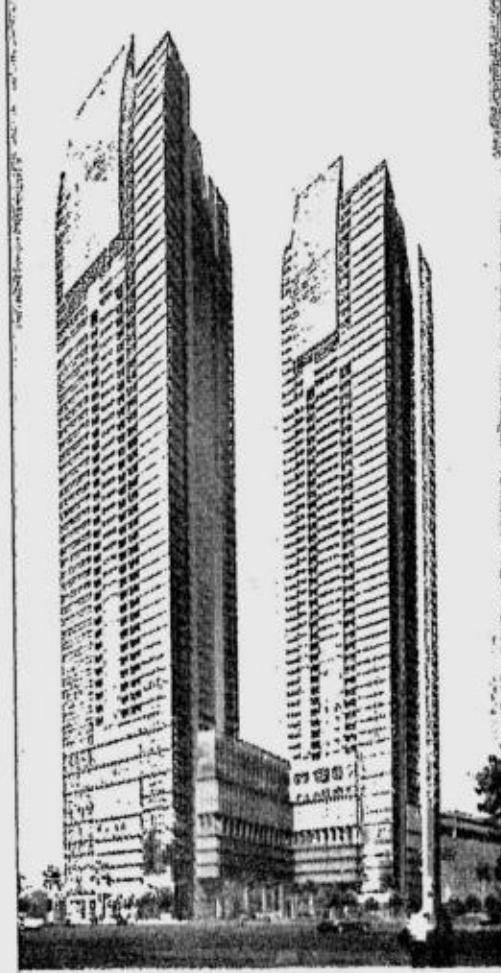
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THE EMIR of Kuwait Sheik Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah meets with President Macapagal-Arroyo who arrived in Kuwait City to seek clemency for Filipino maid and death convict Marilou Ranario.

APP

Emir spares Pinay's life

From page A1
age to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France.

She was accompanied on her Kuwait stop by a small party that included Foreign Secretary Aberto Romulo, Sen. Edgardo Angara, Ambassador Ricardo Endaya, Pampanga Rep. Aurelio Gonzalez Jr. and Bunye.

"The life of every overseas Filipino is important," Bunye quoted the President as saying, before Ms Arroyo and her party headed to Kuwait after the meeting with the emir was confirmed.

Ranario, 33, a school teacher who left her two children to try her luck in the desert emirate, was sentenced to death for killing her female employer, Najat Mahmoud Faraj Mubarak, 46, on Jan. 11, 2005, for allegedly mistreating her and insulting Filipinos.

Ranario said she had suffered physical abuse, lack of food and rest, and the non-payment of her salary.

The Kuwaiti Supreme Court affirmed the sentence last month.

Letter of forgiveness

Even before Ms Arroyo went to see the emir, the Kuwaiti leader had already in his possession a letter of forgiveness that the Philippine government had secured from the victim's mother, paternal brothers and a sister.

Ranario's lawyer was also negotiating with the victim's estranged husband and maternal brother for forgiveness that would allow the emir to further reduce Ranario's prison term.

Philippine diplomats in Kuwait have recommended to Ms Arroyo to make available \$70,000 as blood money for the victim's estranged husband in exchange for the letter of forgiveness.

In January 2006, Ms Arroyo sent a letter to the Kuwaiti ruler seeking his intercession in Ranario's case. Two months later, Vice President Noli de Castro flew to Kuwait to appeal to the emir on behalf of the President.

Last month, De Castro returned to Kuwait, carrying a second letter of appeal from the President to the emir.

Following the trip, De Castro expressed hopes that clemency would be granted because the victim's mother and three siblings had accepted blood money and agreed to forgive her.

INQUIRER efforts to reach Ranario's family in Surigao del Norte failed as the only number by which they could be contacted remained out of reach yesterday.

Atel Hijos, chair of the women's group Gabriela in Caraga town, said the commutation of the sentence was a little victory.

"At least the sentence was reduced to life. But she is still not free. She is still a convict. We hoped that the emir of Kuwait would have been more considerate," Hijos said.

Hijos said Gabriela would like to see Marilou home with her family.

"Her family is waiting for her return," she said.

Ranario's case has drawn widespread attention in the Philippines, whose economy relies heavily on remittances from nearly 8 million OFWs. Last year, OFW remittances totalled \$12.8 billion in remittances—about 10 percent of gross domestic product.

Of that 8 million OFWs, about 73,000 work in the Gulf state. About 60,000 of them are women employed mainly as maids and earning an average of less than \$200 a month, labor groups say.

Vigils

Workers' pressure groups have organized rallies and candlelight vigils for Ranario and urged the government to do everything to save her life.

In 1995, relations between the Philippines and Singapore soured when the city-state ignored appeals by Manila to halt the execution of Flor Contemplacion and hanged her for murdering a fellow Filipino maid and a Singaporean boy.

The government of then President Fidel Ramos was sharply criticized for moving too slowly to help Contemplacion amid massive anti-Singapore protests in the Philippines.

In 2004, the Philippines weathered criticism from the United States and other coalition forces when Ms Arroyo ordered its token peacekeeping contingent withdrawn from Iraq as part of a deal to save truck driver Angelo de la Cruz, who was seized by militants who threatened to behead him.

With reports from Allan Nawal, Inquirer Mindanao, and Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

JV sees 'painful' meet with GMA ...

From page A1
Philippine Jaycees in Malacañang every year.

Ejercito, a member of the opposition, is the TOYM awardee for outstanding government service, an honor he welcomed.

"This is a prestigious award," he said when the TOYM awardees were announced on Friday.

As of yesterday, Ejercito said he had yet to make up his mind on whether or not to attend the awarding ceremony in Malacañang, where President Macapagal-Arroyo will hand out the trophies.

Erap's blessings

But should he decide to show up at the ceremony today, Ejercito said he had his father's blessings to meet with Ms Arroyo.

It would be Ejercito's first time to return to the Palace since January 2001, when his father and other members of the family left Malacañang.

"I know I deserve the award. That's what my father told me. But when I think of what this administration did to us, to my family, especially my father, it is really very hard and painful on my part," he said.

"For me, it (Estrada's ouster and imprisonment) is really very traumatic and can't easily be forgotten," the mayor added.

Ejercito continues to be one of the harshest critics of Ms Arroyo, who has been the opposition's object of scorn since she replaced Estrada in 2001.

After a six-year trial, the Sandiganbayan convicted Estrada of two counts of plunder and cleared him of perjury last September.

In October, the President pardoned him and restored his civil rights.

Like his half-brother, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada,

da, and other members of the Estrada clan, Ejercito doesn't address Ms Arroyo as the "President."

The Estrada family also believes that the former President's ouster was engineered by Ms Arroyo's camp. They also believe she stole the presidency from opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. in the hotly contested 2004 elections.

The San Juan mayor also opposed the idea of Estrada seeking a pardon from Ms Arroyo, stressing that she was the guilty party.

Ejercito said Ms Arroyo should seek a pardon from the public for detaining Estrada and for the numerous corruption and election scandals that have clouded her administration.

Health, education

In a statement, the Philippine Jaycees said Ejercito was responsible for San Juan's progress in the past six years.

The city, according to the organization, was recognized as the best fiscally managed municipality in the country in 2006 by the Commission on Audit.

"He has enhanced his health campaigns by providing affordable medicine and hospitalization, improving the local education system by establishing an affordable city college and providing an on-site housing program for the poorest of the poor in San Juan," the Jaycees said.

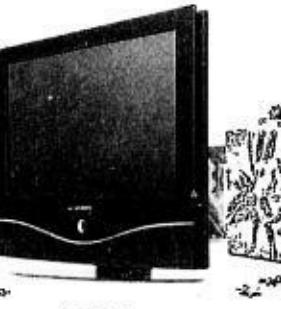
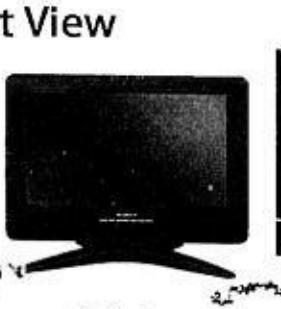
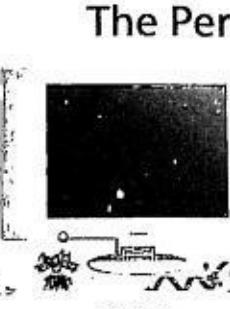
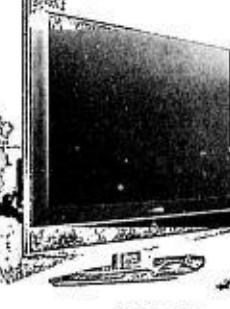
The other 2007 TOYM awardees are Kara David of GMA 7 for broadcast journalism; Gemicel Espino, military service; Anthony Rolando Golez Jr., disaster management; Dennis Mendiola, business leadership; Fr. Fernando Suarez, religious service, and Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco, community service.

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Soldiers 'storm' Makati City Hall

A GROUP OF 30 Army men—some of them in full battle gear—alighting from two military jeeps, a Hummer and a van in front of Makati City Hall just before 11 a.m. yesterday caused some alarm in the neighborhood.

Residents phoned the Makati police. Mayor Jejomar Binay, who was not apprised of the Army plan, objected.

"The military was supposed to only test their radio signals, but they arrived ready for battle, as if they were entering a combat zone. Clearly, this was another example of overkill," Binay said.

The soldiers, from the Army's 48th Infantry Battalion, did not enter the building which was guarded by about 50 members of City Hall's security force.

Instead they surveyed the building's surroundings, its entrances and exits and set up communication equipment, including an antenna to test radio and phone signals.

Try it

"On Tuesday, let's see them try to get past us," said one of the soldiers, referring to Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and the junior officers on trial for the 2003 Oakwood mutiny. On Nov. 29, they marched out of a courtroom at City Hall and marched on the Peninsula Manila hotel which they took over for seven hours.

Maj. Gilbert Pinongcos said the soldiers wanted to find the best spot to set up their equipment on Dec. 11 and to determine where to take up positions.

Pen incident

He said the soldiers wielding long firearms were for security and arrived separately from their unit, which was responsible only for communications and was unarmed.

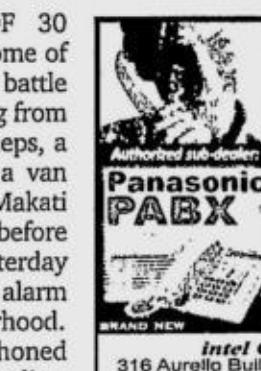
"This is like the Manila Pen incident in which the city government was kept out of the loop," said Joey Salgado, Makati's public affairs chief.

Salgado said engineer Egyay Gundran, in charge of maintenance at City Hall, politely asked the soldiers to leave because they did not observe protocols in conducting their ocular inspection.

Police Senior Insp. Jose Dioquino, who arrived at the scene, said they did not know of the Army's plans and learned about them only after residents called up wondering what the soldiers were up to.

"The police and military have developed this bad habit of ignoring civilian authorities. The last time civilian authorities were ignored was during martial law. *Sinasabi ba nina na nasa martial law na tayo* (Are they saying we are now under martial law?)" Binay said in a statement.

Binay recalled that when the Oakwood trial was set at City Hall in 2003, the military wrote the city administrator and held a series of meetings to discuss security preparations. Ocular inspections were done in a discreet manner then, he said.



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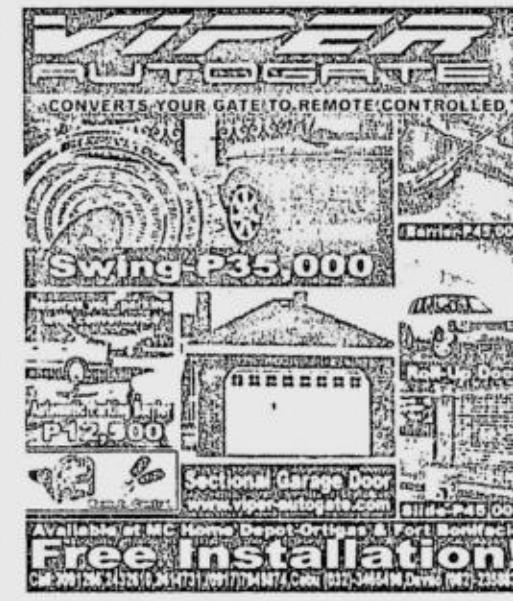
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Environmentalists join protests worldwide

SKIERS, FIRE-EATERS AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS joined in demonstrations worldwide over the weekend to draw attention to climate change and push leaders to take action.

From costume parades in Manila to protests by London cyclists, marches and events took place in hundreds of cities and towns across the world Saturday to coincide with the two-week UN Climate Change Conference, which runs through the end of this week in Bali, Indonesia.

Hundreds of people rallied in the Philippines' capital—wearing miniature windmills atop hats, or framing their faces in cardboard cutouts of the sun.

"We are trying to send a message that we are going to have to use renewable energy sometime, because the environment, we need to really preserve it," high school student Samantha Gonzales said in Manila.

In Taipei, Taiwan, around 1,500 people marched through streets holding banners saying "No to carbon dioxide." Hundreds

marched outside the conference center in Bali.

Climate rescue carnival

At a Climate Rescue Carnival in Auckland, New Zealand, more than 350 people lay in a field to spell out the words "Climate SOS."

In Berlin, ice sculpture artist Christian Funk carved a polar bear out of 15 tons of ice at the Brandenburg Gate.

"Everybody has to do something against climate change and we cannot rely on politicians to take care of this," Corinna Fischer said, marching with the other protesters through the center of Berlin.

Christmas markets throughout Germany were switching off lights for five minutes, and British cyclists pedaled into Parliament Square in London, to protest about the city's level of car traffic and its effect on global warming, organizers said.

In Helsinki, Finland, about 50 demon-

strators ground their skis across the asphalt on the main shopping street, bemoaning a lack of snowy winters.

Fire-eaters blew billowing clouds of flames at a rally in Athens, Greece.

US protests

Americans also protested Saturday. In Massachusetts, about 50 demonstrators took a quick "polar bear" plunge into the bracingly cold waters of Walden Pond, made famous by the 19th century philosopher Henry David Thoreau who wrote about his experience living on its shores.

"We want our elected leaders—the congressmen, senators and the president—to realize that global warming is a serious problem that needs their leadership," organizer Roger Shamel said.

In Fairbanks, Alaska, protesters skied a frigid slope wearing just bathing suits or underwear. It was 19 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 7 Celsius) during the ski, unusually warm for this time of year.

AP



GLEANERS like these women in Colombo, Sultan Kudar, are most vulner

US, China ...

From page A1

of pollutants pumped into the atmosphere, but in a nonbinding way.

Its preamble notes the widely accepted view that industrial nations' emissions should be cut by 25 percent to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. But even those numbers are likely to set off renewed debate at the Bali talks, which are meant to launch a two-year negotiation for a post-Kyoto Protocol agreement.

Delegates from nearly 190 nations will, among other things, decide what form those talks should take.

As for mandatory emissions caps, De Boer said, "I really hope that that is a discussion that will be taken up toward the end of that two years rather than here."

The Kyoto pact, which was rejected by the United States, commits three dozen industrial countries that signed on to cut emissions by an average of 5 percent below 1990 levels in the next five years.

One of the reasons Washington didn't sign on was that it did not set targets for fast-developing countries like China. The two nations are the largest emitters of climate-changing gases, though scientists do not always agree which tops the list.

'We're not ready'

The chief US negotiator said Washington would come up with its own plan to cut global-warming gases by mid-2008, and would not commit to mandatory caps in the coming days.

"We're not ready to do that here," said Harlan Watson, whose country favors a more voluntary approach to cuts. "We're working on that, what our domestic contribution would be, and again we expect that sometime before the end of the Major Economies process."

That process of US-led talks was inaugurated in September by US President George W. Bush, who invited 16 other "major economies," such as the Europeans, Japan, China and India, to Washington to discuss a future international program of cutbacks in carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping emissions.

Watson said the final decision would likely be announced at a "leaders" meeting in the middle of next year.

US parallel talks

But environmentalists accuse the Bush administration of using those parallel talks to subvert the long-running UN negotiations and the spirit of the binding Kyoto Protocol.

China, which is increasingly turning to coal-powered electricity plants and factories to help fuel its booming economy, has also stood firm in saying it would not agree to binding targets. It says the West is responsible for rising temperatures, because it has been pumping climate-changing gases into the air for centuries.

"China is in the process of industrialization and there is a need for economic growth to meet the basic needs of the people and fight against poverty," said Su Wei, a top climate expert for the government and member of its Bali delegation.

The European Union, on the other hand, has committed to binding emissions reductions of 20 percent by 2020. Midway through the two-week conference, many of the assembled nations were demanding such firm commitments from Washington as well.

"It would be useful for Annex I, non-Kyoto countries"—code for the United States—"to indicate what level of effort they'll make," said M.J. Mace, a delegate from the Pacific nation of Micronesia, whose islands are threatened by seas rising from global warming.

Al Gore, UN chief

Prominent figures, including Nobel-winning former US vice president Al Gore and UN chief Ban Ki-moon, are due to arrive here in the coming days as the summit enters its crucial final week.

"The whole year has been pointing at the Bali process," said John Coequyt, a climate campaigner from Greenpeace.

"We have been here for a week now and there is not a lot of difference in discussion, tone and energy from previous summits. Things are going to have to change when ministers get here."

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Government Warning
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able as the extreme climate wreaks havoc on farms.

LINA SAGARAL REYES / INQUIRER MINDANAO

Climate change spawns ...

From page A1

the day you can see the heat waves rising as if we are in the middle of summer. And if it rains, the floods will wash out everything in the fields."

The mild monsoons used to occur during Ramadan in September and October. This time, the wind shifts were unpredictable, Manamba says.

A study by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), quoted in "Up in Smoke? The Threat of Climate Change to Human Development and Environment," showed that increases of 1°C at nighttime during the growing season, well within the predicted range of global warming, would reduce global rice yields by about 10 percent every year.

The black bugs, which began to appear in the mid-1980s, have become more deadly and numerous, Manamba says.

"They suck the juice out of the rice stalks and so the grains will not ripen. I use pesticides, but I can't spray as often as instructed

because I can't afford to buy the entire dose," he says.

Wiser bugs

The bugs also seem to have developed resistance to the pesticides.

"They seem to be wiser than human beings now. They hide within the cracks of the earth and wait till the next rains come," he said.

He would not know now where to get food for the next season or whether he will find money to feed his family.

His daughter Norain is the best reader and speaker at the Makat Elementary School, says her teacher, Josie Kusain.

Manamba wants his child to become a nurse but he does not even know how to send her to high school.

As the president of the Parents-Teachers Association, Manamba spearheaded a community garden to help tide families over through the dry season.

Nothing grew, except the hardy *gabi*, a root crop.

He expressed hope that he would learn organic farming methods, which he had heard was already being used in other towns.

In the meantime, his family subsists on the subsidy of one kilo of rice per child offered by the Department of Education and the World Food Program.

Manamba was among the thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) who tried to rebuild their lives back in their communities after the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels and government soldiers agreed to a ceasefire.

The nongovernment organization Oxfam-Great Britain, which has projects in health and education here, considers farmers like Manamba among the 40 million rural poor in Asia who are hardest hit by global warming. Children and women are the most vulnerable.

A moveable river

"The Alip (River) that flows through Makat has always been a 'moveable' river," says Abraham Adam, the madrasah teacher at the Makat Elementary School. "It changes direction every seven years."

Adam says that in the past two years, it had become so unpredictable.

Flood waters from the denuded Dagoma Mountain Range, where the headwaters are located, used to reach here in an hour. Now, it takes just about 15 minutes for the rampaging waters to come.

A mining firm is exploring the mountains for gold and chromite deposits, Adam said.

The school days depended much on the condition of the river as the schoolhouse for Grades 5 and 6 are on the opposite side of the village. At least 50 students and about the same number of farmers have to cross the river twice every day in order to get to school and to work in farms.

Already, four schoolchildren have drowned.

The villagers want a footbridge to be built across the river so the schoolchildren are safer on their way to and from school. But the town coffers cannot yet afford to build one.

Going organic

International experts advise that "communities must build their resilience by adopting appropriate technologies and diversifying their livelihoods to cope with the coming climate stress that lies outside the realm of human experience."

In Barangay Sepaka in Datu Paglas in neighboring Maguindanao, another group of resettled evacuees has turned to organic farming to deal with the black bugs.

"We save a lot, as much as 90 percent of the costs for buying fertilizers and pesticides," notes Norhaisa Iskak. "Our yield is much smaller and we earn less from our crop, but at least we only invest a little."

"And our crops don't fail. We know this kind of food, grown without chemicals, is good for our health," Iskak said.

The rich must pay

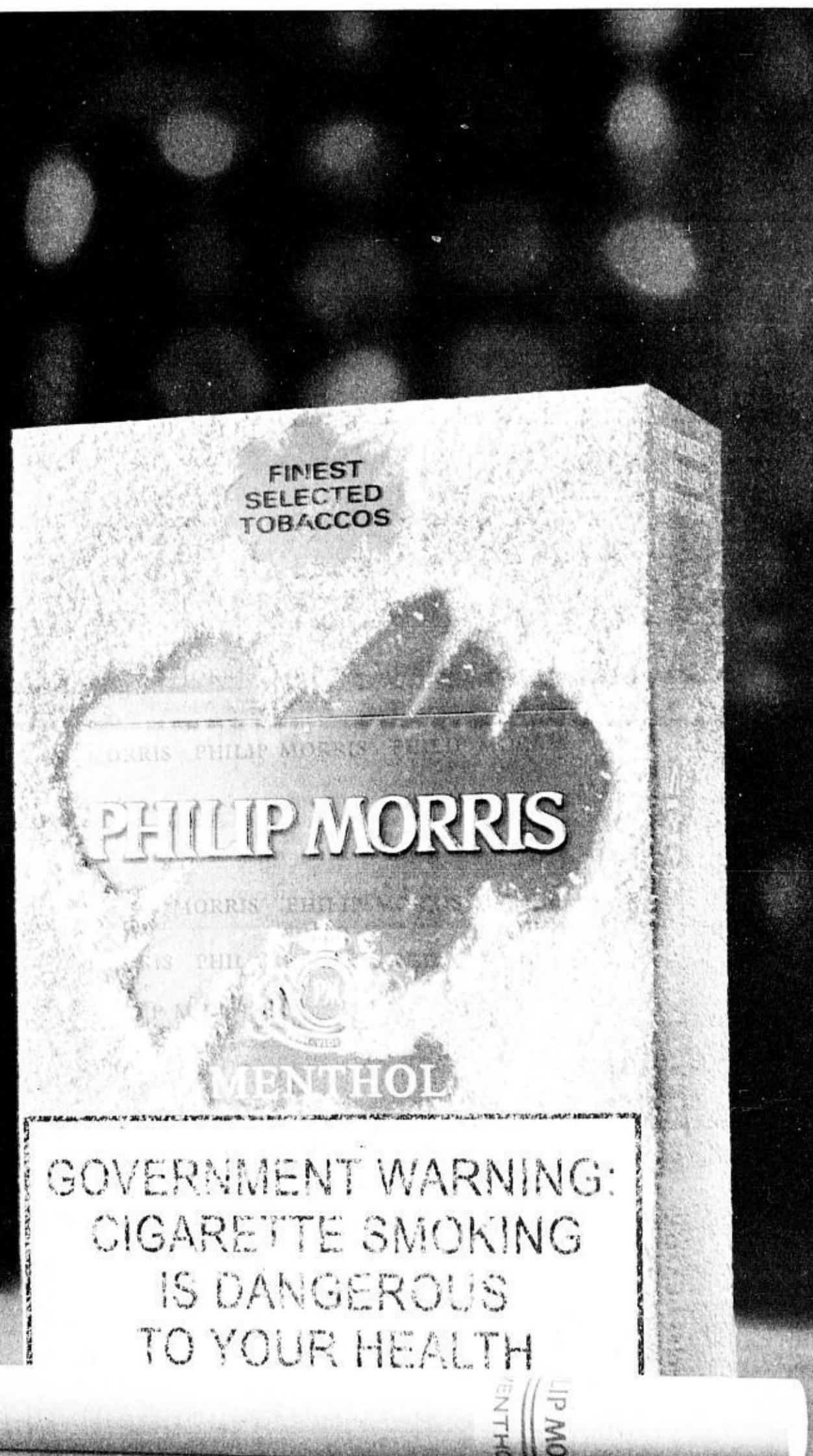
Funding for making small and remote rural communities, like Makat and Sepaka in the ARMM, more adaptive and resilient must come from rich countries, like the US, Germany, Britain and Japan, stresses Oxfam.

"Rich countries, primarily responsible for creating the problem, must stop harming, by fast cutting their greenhouse-gas emissions, and start helping, by providing finance for adaptation," it says.

"In developing countries, adaptation will cost at least \$50 billion each year, and far more if global emissions are not cut rapidly," Oxfam explains.

In a statement released for the Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia, this week, Oxfam says "an approach rooted in equity and justice suggests that countries that are both responsible for producing excessive emissions, and capable of providing assistance, should bear the costs."

"Adaptation calls for many tens of billions of dollars each year. But rich countries have so far pledged a mere \$182 million to international funds for developing country adaptation—less than half of one per cent of the minimum amount that Oxfam believes is needed overall," the agency said.



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OPINION

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• Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascarado Sts., Makati City

• P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City

• Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments

• Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807

• Circulation 523-5570

• Subscription Hotline 896-6000



The long march

THE UNFORTUNATE FARMERS FROM SUMILAO marched a great distance to protest the terrible failure of agrarian reform in their ancestral land in Bukidnon, but the chasm between their cause and Malacañang's appreciation of the situation is greater than the 1,700 kilometers they traveled in the last two months.

From chilly Europe, where she is basking in the under-informed acclaim of kings and university presidents, President Macapagal-Arroyo sent word to her alter egos in

the Cabinet that they should handle the marching farmers with great care. "The President feels that this is a volatile situation," Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the other day.

Unfortunately for the President, Spain's newest human rights champion, the "situation" is the way it is partly because of the Arroyo administration's own failures. On Friday, after finally reaching the gates of Malacañang, the farmers were not allowed entry inside the presidential palace. The Executive Secretary, Eduardo Ermita, could have extended them the courtesy of a meeting, but decided against it. He did not even send anyone of high rank to meet them at the palace gates.

Two days earlier, he had dismissed their effort to seek an audience with him with a cruel jest: "We understand that anytime they can be seen probably in Quezon City, in the general area of the DAR. Of course, they want to dramatize their march, saying they will go to Malacañang."

Aside from obvious ignorance (the protest march, called Lakaw Sumilao, kicked off on Oct. 10 with Malacañang as the ultimate destination), Ermita's casual dismissal revealed a bureaucrat's disdain for the dramatizing potential of protest actions. But street protests in a democratic setting are precisely meant to highlight a cause or an injustice or a course of action; it may offend Ermita's air-conditioned sensibilities, but the very purpose of what used to be called the parliament of the streets is to force the bureaucracy to throw its windows wide open. He may think the pungent blast of air rushing in and rustling the papers on his desk is mere theater; he would be wrong.

What would it have cost Ermita to meet the farmers at the gates? The hoarse tirade of weary farmers, the indignity of a hundred cameras recording his reluctant receipt of a letter from a cardinal—surely these are minor inconveniences, when considered from the higher perspective of the country's democratic project.

Did Ermita think that, by meeting the farmers at the gates of Malacañang, he would have set a dangerous precedent, that of a presidency buckling under emotional blackmail? Well, how dangerous can this precedent be, if the standard it set is extraordinarily high: first a hunger strike, followed by years of bewildering litigation, then the lapse of a five-year period of development and finally a two-month march over a 1,700-kilometer route. This is not exactly the sort of leak that leads to the opening of floodgates.

Besides, it is this extraordinary saga of deceit and betrayal and suffering—the travails of the travelers—that is precisely the point, isn't it? The Sumilao farmers are not merely protesting the relatively recent purchase of the disputed farm lands by San Miguel Foods; they are protesting the way powerful forces, including the development company owned by landlord Norberto Quisumbing Sr., have treated them in the last harrowing decade.

It may have been that the Supreme Court was suckered (pardon our French) by Quisumbing or by other parties; we will not quarrel with the high court's adverse decisions, except to note, with Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, the superiors of religious organizations and the farmers themselves, that an essential condition of those decisions has not been complied with. During the five-year period of development when the Quisumbing company should have started work on its ambitious or indeed grandiose plans, nothing happened. It was left to San Miguel Foods to begin development of the land—but by then the five years had lapsed, and the Quisumbing company had succeeded in playing the high court for a fool.

An injustice has been done. Perhaps a certain champion visiting Europe would care to flex her well-honored, if not necessarily well-honed, human-rights muscles?



PPA's plea: Justice, not technicalities

(This is a continuation of the Dec. 7 column on the Philippine Ports Authority's land expropriation case in Batangas City.)

3. ON WITHDRAWAL OF EXPROPRIATION complaint. The PPA is being asked to pay P14 billion for the land to be expropriated. The PPA said that was beyond its means (it has a budget of only P4 billion a year), and therefore it would rather not go through with the expropriation. Ms Llana-Santiago, one of the landowners, said in her letter that it would be more expensive for the PPA to return the expropriated properties.

PPA's comment: The present price being asked for the expropriated properties defeats the very public purpose envisioned for the Batangas Port Development Project, Phase II. If the PPA would be forced to pay P5,500 per sq m for lots that are clearly agricultural in nature, that would mean that the project would no longer be feasible and the national government would be forced to foot the bill for a project that is no longer economically viable. In layman's terms, instead of the project contributing to the economy, the government will have to subsidize it if the PPA would be forced to pay the P11 billion in compensation (interests bloats it to P14 billion).

Necessarily it would be the ordinary taxpayers like us who would ultimately bear the brunt of paying the cost of this land acquisition. This is totally unjust for the people who are now reeling from the rise in the prices of basic necessities.

The PPA cannot afford the cost of expropriation. Contrary to the mistaken claim of Ms Llana-Santiago, the PPA's retained earnings of P14.9 billion is merely a ledger account. Retained earnings enumerate the history of the cumulative annual net income of a corporation. They do not represent liquid assets which can be readily drawn for payment of obligations. The retained earnings of the PPA are now in the form of port facilities strewn all over the country that has in the meantime become properties of public dominion. As prop-

As I See It



Neal H. Cruz

erties of the Republic, port facilities are beyond the commerce of man. They can no longer be transformed into cash to satisfy the P14 billion in claims. Even if these facilities can be converted into cash, payment to the landowners of P14 billion would leave the PPA bankrupt.

Hence, withdrawal of the project is more feasible for the PPA and the government than paying for overpriced agricultural lands.

4. On the claim that the PPA squandered its opportunity to present evidence.

PPA's comment: This is very technical, fit only for lawyers. And even assuming that the PPA squandered its opportunity to present evidence, that is no reason for the landowners and their lawyers to take advantage of it. It does not serve the ends of justice.

To repeat, there is enough evidence on record that beg consideration to arrive at the just compensation for the expropriated lands. The compensation must be just not only to the landowners but also to the government. Government lawyers' failure to refute the allegations of the landowners that their properties are priced at P5,500 per sq m is of no moment. The government cannot be bound by the mistakes, if any, of its officers. Besides, there are relevant pieces of evidence which, if considered, would support a just finding of compensation for the expropriated lands.

This very issue is another reason why the Supreme Court should relax its technical rules and inquire into the proper just compensation for the lots in question. If the landowners themselves believe the PPA has squandered its opportunity to be heard on just compensation,

then surely it would understand why the PPA is now appealing for a chance to be heard. If the landowners are really confident that their properties could fetch P5,500 per sq m, then it should not be afraid to allow the PPA to present evidence.

One defendant in the expropriation case has voluntarily sold his property to the PPA at P500 per sq m last Oct. 15, 2007. There must be really something wrong about the trial court pricing the lands at P5,500 per sq m.

As I see it: I think that the decision of the trial court judge (who has since retired) fixing the just compensation at P5,500 per sq m for agricultural land is too much. Aerial photographs of the questioned properties are better evidence than the declaration of private appraisers whose opinion can be biased. The present developments in the area were done by the PPA, not the owners. And you cannot force anybody to pay for something he/she/it cannot afford.

The landowners will not lose anything if their lands are returned to them. If they are really worth P5,500 per sq m, then they should be able to sell them to other buyers willing to pay the price. Besides, the PPA has already paid the down payment, which they can keep as well as the developments that the PPA has put in.

On the other hand, the taxpayers, which include the poorest of the poor, will be forced to foot the bill to satisfy the greed of some landowners who would already be handsomely compensated even if the price is lowered to more reasonable levels.

And justice will not be served if the Supreme Court will hide behind technicalities to resolve the dispute. The courts are there to dispense justice, not to spout technicalities. And the highest tribunal is there precisely to correct the mistakes of the inferior courts. It is a basic judicial principle that substance is superior to technicalities. Hiding behind technicalities is laziness. And the justices would be abandoning their duties of dispensing justice by resorting to technicalities in deciding cases.

Coming home

THERE'S THE RUB
Conrado de Quiros

I FLEW BACK LATE LAST WEEK, A BONE-JANGLING trip because of a nine-hour layover in Bangkok. It was an outrageous arrangement made less so only by the fact that the fare was reasonable in an unreasonable peak season—Filipinos flew south, or east, like migratory birds on Christmas. I was glad when the first rays of the sun touched my skin in Bangkok, and was able to take off my coat after what had seemed like (coming from the United Kingdom) the Ice Age. Time has a way of expanding in the cold, and I'm not sure that that isn't so physically as much as psychologically.

The sunny feeling however was dampened by a pall of cloud that fell on me upon seeing fellow Filipinos at the gate for the Thai Airways flight to Manila. It was like having a mirror put on your face telling you, to your eternal shock, how you looked. Or it was a photograph that carried the caption, "What has happened to us?"

No, I didn't mind the cheap cologne and the huge *balikbayan* boxes and the shoving rush with which we comported ourselves—the impressions of that person who wrote about OFWs sometime ago and who earned their everlasting ire. I too was dismayed by that article, though more because of the grand illusions of the observer rather than the dismal realities of the observed. The idea of looking down on one's own out of a sense of belonging to the upper side of the social divide and possessing superior (really just expensive) tastes is never pleasant. It's also rubbing salt on wound, when you contemplate the depths of sacrifices the OFWs make, not least the longing for home in the cold and desolate places they're in, just to keep their and their loved ones' heads above water.

In any case those impressions were nowhere in evidence in the Bangkok waiting area. There was no cheap cologne wafting anywhere, not even in the plane itself later on; no huge *balikbayan* boxes, or at least I did not see them because we were past the check-in area, though most everyone seemed to have strained the limits of the allowable hand-carried luggage;

with the meager amounts one has.

That was what dimmed the sunshiny feeling in me. I wondered where we would be down the road, maybe five, 10, years from now. Let me be clear: I do appreciate what OFWs and other Filipino migrants abroad are doing, heroically if completely unintentionally keeping our collective heads above water by sending millions of dollars of remittances back home. Heaven help us if something should happen to that. But you wonder also if the gap between us and our neighbors in terms of level of education or sense of aspiration or capacity for ambition, however you put it, isn't widening over the years, as shown by the difference in attitudes and behavior patterns of various nationalities in this airport. You wonder how long a people who exist more and more on survival mode, content to keep the status quo, can compete with other peoples who are determined to better themselves every day (not least by reading) the better to conquer the world. Life, like time, doesn't stop, even at airports.

I remember what the late Raul Roco once told me, which was when he first went abroad during the early '60s as a youth representative to a leadership conference. Then, he said, you would really be proud to be Filipino, the Filipino enjoying the reputation of being one of the most educated Asians, possibly next only to the Japanese. I felt the sting of pain and anger again at the thought of what corruption really meant—little helped by the knowledge that a bunch of benighted Filipino officials, who neither read nor wrote, who merely lied and stole, were even then winging their way to some of the most expensive places on earth using taxpayers' money to give vent to their shopping instincts—which is depriving this country of money that could go to enabling most of us to read and write. The better to go out into the world with a desire other than to torment people who are trying to sleep.

You always long desperately to come home when you are abroad. The only thing is what you are coming home to.

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT

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What is the DAR secretary waiting for?

LOUDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.



THE DESPERATE FARMERS OF SUMILAO ARE knocking at the door of the Department of Agrarian Reform. Will DAR listen?

The issue is not whether the three decisions of the Supreme Court rejecting the original appeal of the farmers should be reversed. The issue now is new: whether the terms of the approved conversion plan for a rich farm land into industrial use have been followed by the landowner.

The Supreme Court doctrine pronounced in 2002 is that the conversion of agricultural lands into non-agricultural uses should be strictly regulated and may be allowed only when the conditions prescribed by law are present.

We may grant that the original conversion order was lawful, even if it squeaked through only on a procedural technicality. But the farmers are saying that, lawful or not, the conditions for the conversion have not been fulfilled and that therefore and by law the conversion should be revoked. What is the score on this?

The Comprehensive Rules on Land Conversion require that the developer should commence the development of the property within one year and should complete it within five years and that, if completion will not be achieved within five years, a written request for extension should be filed.

What were the terms of the development which were approved for the 144 hectares? I repeat what I enumerated last Monday:

- 24 hectares would contain a Development Academy of Mindanao consisting of an Institute for Higher Education, Institute for Livelihood Science, Institute for Agri-Business Research, Museum, Library, Cultural Center and Mindanao Sports Development Complex.

- 67 hectares would contain a **Bukidnon Agro-Industrial Park** consisting of a processing plant for corn oil, corn starch and various corn products; cassava processing for starch, alcohol and food delicacies; processing plants for fruits and fruit products such as juices; processing

plants for vegetables; cold storage and ice plant; cannery system; commercial stores; public market and abattoir.

- 33 hectares for **Forest Development** including open spaces and parks for recreation, horseback riding and mini animal zoo.

- 20 hectares for **Support Facilities** including a 360-room hotel, restaurants, dormitories and housing project.

What followed after the conversion was approved?

Consider the following:

On 30 November 2004, or more than five years after the conversion order, the assistant regional director for operations of DAR reported: "In plain view, there has been no development in the NQSRMDC property which purports to be in line with the conversion application."

On 20 June 2005 the regional director engineer reported to the DAR secretary: "As of this Memorandum, the Honorable Secretary is hereby respectfully informed that there has been no development in the NQSRMDC property that can be associated with the landowner's conversion application."

On 27 October 2006 the DAR secretary himself stated that the landowner had failed to develop the property within five years and did not request for an extension.

In such circumstances, what is the DAR secretary expected to do? The way is clear for him under the Comprehensive Rules on Land Conversion, which say:

Section 34. Effects of Approval of Conversion. The approval of an application for conversion shall have, but shall not be limited to the following effects:

34.1. It shall be limited to the specific use of the land authorized in the Conversion Order....

34.3. The conditions thereof shall be binding upon successors in interest of the property.

Section 47. Grounds. The following acts or omissions shall warrant revocation of the Conversion Order:

47.3. Non-compliance with the conditions of the Converting Order.

47.5. Conversion to a use other than that authorized in the Converting Order.

The Comprehensive Rules on Land Conversion, moreover, command the DAR to monitor compliance and, "in case of applicant's failure to comply with the required period or failure to request for extension . . . [to] initiate the filing of action for total or partial revocation of the Conversion Order and the forfeiture of performance bond in favor of Agrarian Reform Fund."

The landowner failed in its commitment to make the development. Instead, the landowner sold the land to San Miguel Foods Inc. (SMFI).

Under the rules, the successor in interest to the property is bound by the terms of the approved conversion. SMFI plans to put up a piggery with 162 buildings to house 4,400 female pigs and 44,000 piglets and also to put up a slaughterhouse. Compare this SMFI project with the originally approved conversion plan. The former was people's welfare-oriented; now it is pig-oriented! Did the DAR secretary approve the change in orientation?

What is most painful for the farmers is that they had already won Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) which were registered in the Register of Deeds, only to be revoked to give way to the bogus promise of development. What more is DAR waiting for?

A woman named Consuelo

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

speculations that some political matters associated with revolutionary movements at the time might have given him a reason to leave Europe.

It will not be possible in this limited space to detail several succeeding generations of the Zobel clan, one of whom, Jacobo, later married Trinidad Ayala y Roxas, the daughter of a rich Basque-Philippine family who invested in "alcoholic distillates."

One of his sons, Enrique Ayala Zobel, expanded into many other business fields: porcelain and glass, banking and insurance, building design and real estate, and sugar cane production. From original rice fields, he developed the beginnings of present-day Makati.

Consuelo Zobel was Enrique's daughter from a second marriage and was described as a "strong Catholic and deeply impressed by the charity of Saint Therese." She was particularly inspired by the saint's statement: "What matters in life is not great deeds, but great love." Consuelo herself had written, "St. Therese did what I want to do in life... to let fall from Heaven a Shower of Roses. My mission will begin after my death. I will spend my heaven doing good on earth." She must have been truly religious.

In 1940 she married Alger, who was then stationed in the Philippines as a young officer. After his retirement, they lived permanently in Hawaii, where the general died in 1986.

Interestingly, Consuelo's sister Mercedes also married an American military officer by the name of Joseph McMicking, who was with the staff of General MacArthur.

Consuelo led a quiet life in Hawaii but decided to channel her inherited fortune to a humanitarian mission to alleviate poverty and suffering

among the poor. Father Doherty helped out in designing the program for the depressed community of Waianae on west Oahu in Hawaii. He and the late Vicki Bunye, who was then director of human resources of the City and County of Honolulu, had several meetings with Consuelo on this project.

Then, in 1987, Consuelo met social worker Patti Lyons, who was just starting a homeless shelter for street children in Manila. "Through this fatal meeting," according to the literature on the foundation to be later named after Consuelo, "the initial seeds took root from which Consuelo Foundation was ultimately grown." Patti eventually became the president and CEO of the Consuelo Foundation. Consuelo Alger established the Foundation in 1988 "envisioning communities in Hawaii and the Philippines in which disadvantaged children, women and families achieve dignity, self-esteem and self-sufficiency resulting in renewed hope for those who have lost it and hope to those who have never had it." Her dream was further strengthened with the help of diversely talented members of the foundation board and many dedicated and committed friends.

She died in 1990 and her memory lives on through the foundation she built for humanitarian reasons.

She could easily have built a business empire in keeping with her family tradition dating back 175 years and opted to live the life of the rich and famous. She could have profited immensely from the tremendous resources she inherited. But Consuelo had a big heart and chose instead to cast her lot with the poor. That must have been disappointing to some of her affluent relatives.

Her example should inspire many from among the elite classes in the country, which have yet to develop and nurture a culture of philanthropy and generosity in Philippine society.

Belinda A. Aquino is professor and director of Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Sobre la Indolencia de Los Españoles

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



THE PAPERS REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHS, IN glorious color, of the King of Spain decorated with the Order of Lakandula, rank of Supremo, of his heir, the Principe de Asturias with the blue sash of the Order of Lakandula, rank of Bayani, of Queen Sophia wearing the Maringal na Kuwintas of the Order of the Golden Heart, and one of the Infantas with the red sash of the Order of the Golden Heart, rank of Maringal na Krus. The President, in turn, wore the collar of the Order of Carlos III (a step up in prestige from her father, who'd been decorated with the Order of Isabella Católica), and her husband with the gold and white sash of the Order of Isabella Católica, rank of Grand Cross.

The glitter and pomp of the twice-postponed state visit to Spain surely pleased the President. I know an archbishop of whom I am very fond (except for his deplorable politics), and he beamingly told me once that the basis for his zealous support of the President is that they're both members of the Academia Filipina de la Lengua Española. I'm sure he's breathlessly waiting for copies of *Hola* magazine, in the hope it will feature glossy photos of the state dinner. Indeed, the Spanish visit would have been a cause for national pride, if it hadn't been marred by another awards ceremony. The royal decorations showered on the First Family and its hangers-on was par for the course, diplomatically speaking; but the gold medal conferred by the University of Alcalá was another matter.

The University of Alcalá is unique in that it is committed to providing 30 grants a year, to Filipinos pursuing higher education, a process administered through Sen. Edgardo J. Angara's office. This is why of all the Spanish universities, it went out of its way to pay tribute to the President—it had previously gone out of its way to open its doors to Filipinos.

An ignoramus of a Filipino official grandiosely compared the university medal with the congressional gold medal of the US Congress, which is like comparing a college debating trophy with the Medal of Valor. But to be fair to the university, it merely parroted the official line of the Spanish ad-

praise for one thing, which on the other hand should not mitigate her shortcomings in another.

But to return to the observation of the Spaniard I met, the problem here seems to be a Spain that cannot make up its mind, if the basis of warm ties between Spaniards and Filipinos is to be a colonial era both countries are glad to have put behind them, or ties of a shared commitment to modernity, democracy and secularism.

The old Spain and the old Philippines were unhealthy, as Leon Ma. Guerrero, in his collection of essays titled "We Filipinos," and who represented the full flowering of Hispanic culture on our shores, observed. He wrote of the "glory and the shame" of our inheritance from Spain, and pointed to the Duke of Mura and his "Grandezza y Decadencia de España," where the duke observed that Spain's greatest weakness, which Guerrero says we seem to have inherited, is "the atrophy of the civic spirit, the lack of civic responsibility, the habit of submission to absolute and irresponsible power." That mixed inheritance, too, includes "a primitive instinctive piety that sustains us in misfortune; a sense of personal dignity, the amor propicio that drives us to do things which are sometimes comic and sometimes tragic; an avid and restless amorousness which contrives to combine the idolatry of woman with a selfish and boastful carnality; an understanding of death, death as the final sanction of life..."

Guerrero wrote of that inheritance that it could be found not in "masonry or literature" but rather in the "heart, the secret heart, of the nation," that is, "in a servant's sense of honor, in the dance hall girl going on her knees in the crowded aisle to kiss the feet of the Nazarene and pray for better trade, in the venal politician dreaming of a seat in the Senate as Sancho Panza dreamed of the governorship of Barataria, and in the honest public servant who, like Don Quixote, sees a princess in every maid."

It is an indolent Spanish government, and a devious Filipino, that prefers the hazy security of nostalgia to the exciting prospects of a modern, democratic and discerning partnership.

Senior citizens must raise their voices

A GATHERING OF EAGLES. THIS MORNING THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE FLYING SCHOOL CLASS OF 1957 WILL MARK THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR ENTRY INTO THE FLYING BROTHERHOOD. LAST MAY, WE HAD OFFICIAL CELEBRATIONS HELD AT FERNANDO AIR BASE, LIPA CITY TO UNDERScore THE EVENT. TODAY THE CLASS GETS TOGETHER TO COMMEMORATE THEIR ACTUAL GRADUATION 50 YEARS AGO.

The special guests will be our flight instructors and we have managed to gather together quite a number of them who are still around, although not necessarily in the flying business. Just to mention a few, we have Fernando

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan



Fernando Ayubo, Emilio Barroga, Jose Bautista, Elias Dioquino, Nicanor De Dios, Alberto Palomo, Cesar Padilla, Bernard Mah, Adriano Morales and Amado Soliman.

Singling them out as our personal guests is our way of paying tribute to the men who played a critical role in our aviation career. The job of flight instructor is never an easy task. It is so unlike any teaching job in the world. The flight instructor virtually puts his life in the hands of his student in the sense that for every maneuver being taught, he must let go of the controls if the student is to learn.

We have also invited to the gathering former classmates who didn't quite make it in flying but went on to successful careers in other fields of endeavor.

The Secretary of National Defense, Gilberto Teodoro Jr., himself an avid licensed commercial pilot and a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College of the Philippine Air Force and the Joint Command and Staff College of the AFP, will be our guest of honor.

Last July, I reported that the Supreme Court in a 15-page decision penned by Associate Justice Adolf Azcuna had upheld the constitutionality of Republic Act 9257, or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003. This law, authored by Rep. Eduardo Zalcita of Parañaque City and then-Sen. Noli De Castro, removed the P60,000 income threshold from the original Senior Citizens Act authored by Sen. Edgardo Angara. It allowed senior citizens aged 60 and above to enjoy the benefits of the new law, regardless of income status. Age was all that mattered.

Since then, senior citizens have raised their voices on a number of concerns which impinged on the correct implementation of the law. Because of this, the use of credit cards for medicine purchases with the full enjoyment of the 20-percent discount for senior citizens has steadily gained acceptance although from time to time, there are still complaints that some medical outlets refuse to honor the discount when credit cards are used. We must continue to press our lawful rights on these establishments.

The same holds true for restaurant facilities. Some of them refuse to extend the full 20-percent discount on meals paid by credit cards. At times, they offer a 10- or 15-percent discount as though they were doing us some favor. Others declare that promo rates are being offered which take into account the 20-percent discount for seniors. This is not a valid argument, since everyone else enjoys those promo rates and therefore there is practically no provision for the senior citizen discount.

We must correct these misleading arguments and insist on the strict interpretation of the law.

The senior citizens law also provides for a 20-percent discount on diagnostic and laboratory tests. While some medical centers have already started to indicate the full price for their tests which therefore allow senior citizens to check on their discounts, some are still charging everyone on the same basis because of the lack of an established mark-up for the different tests. What is even worse, some centers declare that a number of these tests are not covered by the senior citizens law, and since the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has not come up with a comprehensive list of such tests not covered by the law—although I believe there are no exemptions from the law—we are completely left to the judgment and mercy of the medical centers.

We need to raise our voices and require the DSWD which is the lead agency in the implementation of the senior citizens law to come up with a more dynamic and vigorous implementation of the provisions of the law covering diagnostic and laboratory tests. Again let me say that some establishments have already started giving senior citizens their lawful benefits in a professional and businesslike manner but there are many who remain indifferent to our protestations and we need action more than words of support from government agencies concerned. Let me add that these government agencies meet on a quarterly basis. Perhaps, they could get together more often to look into these matters.

Let me bring to the attention of my fellow senior citizens another matter regarding mutual needs and interests.

As the New Year approaches, we must focus attention on an issue which has seriously eroded our benefits and privileges.

While the existing law granted us a 20-percent discount for medicines and food items in restaurants, the 12-percent expanded value-added tax (E-VAT) wiped out more than half of our entitlement. When the E-VAT was passed, it did not take into account the resulting reduction in an express provision of the law.

During the last election campaign, many candidates aspiring for national office made a lot of promises in exchange for our votes. These included support for senior citizen exemption from the E-VAT or new legislation increasing our 20-percent discount to 32 percent. Either way, what was originally granted by the senior citizens law would, in effect, be restored.

Let us now raise our voices once again and hold these officials to their promises, reminding them of their commitments and indicating how their actions would greatly influence our votes in the next elections. If senior citizens come together as a voting group, a bloc of some 6 million registered voters, we could easily influence our legislators and executive officials to pay more attention to senior citizen needs and concerns. Their awareness of the voting power involved would be the most effective way of getting them to move on senior citizen issues.

Finally, as I have mentioned a number of times, the life span of the Filipino, male and female, has lengthened over the years. Barring accidental death, it is very likely that all of us will eventually reach senior citizen status. Now is the time to make sure that the senior citizens law is fully and faithfully implemented.

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San Miguel's plan for Sumilao

RE FR. JOAQUIN BERNAS' COLUMN on the Sumilao farmers: We are not in the position to comment for Norberto Quisumbing. However, we would like to set straight the record as it pertains to our ownership of the land from 2002 onward and the ongoing development of the estate.

We'd like to make it clear that it was San Miguel that was invited to invest in Sumilao by the local government, specifically by Mayor Mary Ann Baula. We responded to her call in the best way we knew how.

The primary source of income in Sumilao is corn-growing. Like other commodity producers, the farmers bear the brunt of fluctuating seasonal prices which can range anywhere from P3 to P10. We wanted to help them secure better and stable prices for their produce by providing them post-harvest facilities, a recommendation that Baula and many of the local farmers we spoke to embraced early on.

We could have stopped there, but we didn't. As we would be setting up post-harvest facilities for the

Sumilao farmers anyway, we decided to expand the project to provide the farmers corn silos as well. It was from there that we committed to building a multibillion-peso state-of-the-art, vertically integrated agro-industrial estate for Sumilao—one that would be equipped with modern feed mills, poultry and piggy farms, its own wastewater treatment facilities, a reservoir and provisions for forest development.

Again we consulted the local government, presenting our development plans. We convened a consultation with the farmers themselves, along with the residents and local officials of San Vicente, Sumilao. In fact, several of the farmers who have joined the protest march were in that consultation and assented to these plans.

Mapalad leaders Paterno L. Tuminhay and Renato C. Penas were among the barangay *kagawad* who approved the barangay resolution endorsing the project.

Having secured their approval, we immediately set out to construct the facilities. To date, we have constructed 21 of 40 build-

ings that will make up the agro-industrial estate.

All told, our total investment in Sumilao will amount to an estimated P2.4 billion, far, far greater than any projected future value for the land itself. It's an investment that will have near-term benefits for the farmers themselves.

Our plan will provide the residents of Sumilao a sustainable source of employment and income and we're confident that all our initiatives will have an even greater catalyzing effect on the lives of people in this area.

We take very seriously our role as contributors to countryside development and we are committed to the principle of creating value not only for the company but for society at large. We need not have bought the land in Sumilao, but we chose to do so because we saw a clear opportunity to be of help. We'd like it known that we bought the land in good faith with the very best of intentions for the good people of Sumilao.

—RAMON S. ANG,
president, San Miguel Corp.

FVR insulted us

SORRY, BUT WE DO NOT CONCDE to Mr. Fidel Ramos' opinion that we should cling to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo until 2010 just because the country has "no better options."

The Filipino people have all the reasons to hope for and to look ahead to more optimistic and principled scenarios in the Philippines with GMA out before 2010.

It is an insult to the Filipino people that a former leader, who has in a way contributed to the "moral bankruptcy" that our nation is now enduring in pain, would now urge them to stay in a "state of denial" about the moral bankruptcy and moral decadence of the present government which pushes most, if not all, of our sisters and brothers in grinding poverty to the margins of desperation and "suicidal behavior."

—SR. MAUREEN CATABIAN, RGS,
Sisters of the Good Shepherd,
Philippines,
1043 Aurora Blvd., 1108 QC

Lawyer was not entrapped or jailed

I WAS NEVER ARRESTED OR taken into custody. Neither was I entrapped by the National Bureau of Investigation or by any police agency last Nov. 26 or at any time at Market! Market! or anywhere else in connection with a complaint by a businesswoman for extortion or with any case for that matter. And I was never detained at the NBI or any detention cell or jail in connection with any case.

The false and malicious report titled "Father, son face extortion, graft raps" (INQUIRER, 11/28/07) caused undue and unnecessary humiliation and dishonor to me and my family, for which the re-

porter Tina G. Santos and her cohorts should be held responsible.

—ROBERTO B. AWID

The details of the article, including the information that lawyer Robert Awid was arrested in an entrapment operation at the Market! Market! mall in Taguig City on Nov. 26, was based on an interview with an NBI official. The NBI clarified, only later, that Awid was not arrested but was recommended for prosecution for his alleged involvement in an extortion activity.

—TINA G. SANTOS,
reporter, Inquirer

Arroyo's command responsibility

WE WERE NOT SURPRISED BY UN Special Envoy Philip Alston's final report. We knew all along that the Armed Forces was responsible for the extrajudicial killings.

Alston just confirmed what we have known for a long time: that the Arroyo administration has transformed the AFP into its "private army" to neutralize "enemies of the State." The blood of all those who died and who are still missing

stains the hands of Ms Arroyo as commander in chief.

It is imperative that Ms Arroyo be held accountable under the principle of command responsibility and be made to face the bar of justice for all the unsolved political killings in the country, which were committed during her presidency.

—ROEL GARCIA,
spokesperson, Maypagasa,

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First amparo beneficiary cries torture; soldiers deny allegation

By Nancy Carvajal in Manila,
Nico Alconaba
and Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

THE FIRST BENEFICIARY OF the writ of amparo has accused soldiers of torturing him while he was blindfolded to force him to name politicians who had supposedly contributed to the communist rebel fund.

Unless he did so, his family would be in danger, Rowil Monasque, 33-year-old leader of the Bayan Muna-Pagadian City chapter, told a forum in Quezon City the other day.

Monasque said that when he was brought to a court in Pagadian City last month, he was prepared to tell lies—as the military wanted him to—but with the help of his lawyer, he was able to tell the court what really happened.

His disclosure led to his eventual release from two weeks of military custody.

"I did not know that there was a writ of amparo," he said at the forum organized by the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers.

What torture?

Lt. Col. George Avila, civil military operations officer of the First Tabak Division, denied Monasque's claims.

"What torture is he talking about? We even brought him to the hospital," Avila said.

"What I know is that he volunteered for custody because he was wounded. You can even ask the local ABS-CBN reporter who took footage of him saying that he volunteered for military custody," Avila said in a phone interview.

Sudden turnaround

Avila said Monasque suffered a bullet wound in the right leg during an encounter two weeks before his surrender.

He said Monasque's "sudden turnaround" happened in court and only after "leftist groups pressured him by bringing his

relatives in court."

Avila said the military would file criminal charges against him for his involvement in armed encounters.

Speaking for the first time since his release on Nov. 7, Monasque recounted at the forum how he was forced to admit that he was a member of the New People's Army and that he was not taken by the military against his will.

Arrested at checkpoint

He said that on the night of Oct. 24, he was arrested by soldiers at a checkpoint and brought to an army camp in Pagadian.

"The whole night of Oct. 24 and 25, I was blindfolded and made to hear scary anecdotes of what happened to those arrested before me who refused to cooperate with them," he said.

He said his captors demanded he tell them who the other NPA members were and the identities of the politicians funding their cause as the barangay elections were about to take place.

Speaking in Visayan, Monasque described how his captors allegedly hit him in the head and other parts of his body with the butt of a gun for his refusal to talk.

Pure drama'

He claimed junior officers threatened his family if he did not cooperate.

In Zamboanga City, Western Mindanao Command chief Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga dismissed Monasque's allegations as "pure drama." He said not a single unit under his command committed atrocious acts.

Allaga said Monasque was not what he claimed to be—an innocent civilian, a peasant organizer or a church leader, "but a criminal, an outlaw who engaged the Army soldiers in an encounter."

He said the military set up

checkpoints after receiving reports that Monasque was wounded in the encounter.

"When this guy reached a

checkpoint, our troops arrested him and since he was wounded, we immediately brought him to the hospital," Allaga said.



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Handcuffed to gate
They will not withdraw their legal actions and will await and accept the decisions of the courts. They will not be forced out of their home but they need the protection from these cowards that the law now is able to provide.

Stephen said he was "unlaw-

fully" arrested in front of his home in Conpil Village III in San Pedro on Nov. 23, 2007 by men claiming to be barangay tando.

He said he was handcuffed to the gate while Santos' employees took pictures of him.

Stephen was then taken to the municipal police station, but the petitioners claimed he was never interrogated or allowed to submit a counter-affidavit. He was not advised either of his legal rights and no charges was brought against him at that point, according to the petition.

The couple said Stephen was detained without knowing the details of the allegations against him. They said he was also without a lawyer and was not told of his rights in a language he understood.

Consul comes to help

Later, Stephen's case was assigned to De Leon. The couple said De Leon was told that a British Embassy consul was on her way from Manila, but the prosecutor purportedly began the proceedings without waiting for her and without informing Stephen of his rights.

The consul subsequently arrived and told the prosecutor that Stephen had a right to an independent counsel, who was on her way from Cavite. The proceedings were then suspended but after the consul left, De Leon supposedly declared the investigation over and signed a confinement order.

The couple said Stephen's custodians did not want to wait for his wife Mylene, who had gone to withdraw money for his bail. They said Stephen was transported in a police van with barangay employees, including one "hell-bent on inflicting further pain."

When Stephen's lawyer arrived, bail was granted and he was released.

Just 2 golds this time, but 7 RP boxers in finals

From page A1

Jose Rodriguez Saturday in Pattaya.

Amit, the pool queen in Manila two years ago, rallied from 2-5 down to keep her 9-ball singles crown with a 7-5 squeaker over Indonesian Angelina Magdalena Ticoalti at the Grand Ballroom of the Sima Thani hotel here.

The Harbour Centre-RP team roared to its second straight win, overwhelming Indonesia, 75-49, in what looked like an unstoppable march to its old place of prominence in basketball.

But the Filipinos, who have given up their overall championship to host Thailand even before this 11-nation sportfest got off the ground, seem destined to miss a basketball double as their female counterparts bowed to host Thailand, 70-54.

Going into the final week of the biennial competition, the Filipinos remained fourth with just 16 golds, way off the pace of their victory rampage in 2005 that resulted in a total golden haul of 113.

Sustaining their drive from Day 1, the Thais now seemed beyond reach, with Vietnam falling farther behind in second.

As of 7 p.m. here, Thailand had 65 golds and 39 more victories than Vietnam. Singapore kept third with 20 golds. (See related story on Page A30.)

Following the instructions of his Lithuanian coach Rolandas Kazlauskas to the letter, Tolentino allowed his rivals to pull away early before stepping up his pace at the 750-mark of the 2,000-meter race.

He overhauled eventual runner-up Piyadanan Pantangthai with 200 meters left and won by seven seconds with a time of 7:19.71.

Swimmer Miguel Molina, the only other Filipino with two golds so far, settled for a silver in the men's 4x100 freestyle relay (3:27.70) with James Walsh, Kendrick Uy and Daniel Coaldey.

Walsh also picked up a silver in the 100 butterfly (55.47) while Ryan Arabejo, the 200 backstroke winner, was third in the 400 free (3:59.81).

Molina will go for a third gold in the 200 breaststroke.

Tolentino's performance somehow eased the pain of the unexpected defeat of Eduardo

Buenavista and Roy Vence in the men's marathon, and the failure to finish by defending women's champion Christabel Martes.

Buenavista salvaged third place, which was matched by Jho Ann Banayag, who lowered her RP women's record to 2:44.41.

Vence, the champion in Malaysia in 2001 when the country's marathon win streak started, placed sixth.

It was back to oblivion for Asian Games hero Rene Catalan as he bowed out in the semifinals of wushu's sanshou 52kg division, a victim of Thai Chantra Khwanyo.

Catalan was resurrected from the loser's bracket after an appeal by wushu president Julian Camacho reversed a decision by the chief judge to break a first-round tie in favor of the Filipino's Vietnamese foe.

But Benjie Rivera (men's sanshou 56kg) and Mariane Mariano (women's sanshou 60kg) reached the finals even as Mary Jane Estmar (women's sanshou 52kg) followed the fate of Catalan.

After contributing two golds Saturday, dance sport settled for three silvers and a bronze with Emmanuel Reyes and Maira Rosete placing second in the Standard Viennese Waltz and Standard Slow Foxtrot.

The other dance silver came from John Melencio and Dearlie Gerodias, who also picked up a bronze in the Latin American Samba.

Also coming up with silvers were Lakambini Alto and Nida Cordova in the women's doubles sculls, and triathletes George Villegas (men) and Alessandra Araullo (women).

The other bronze medalists were Arlan Macasieb and Maria Luisa Lucas in triathlon, Jose Rodriguez in men's singles sculls, Margarito Angana in the men's 55kg freestyle wrestling, and wushu's Janice Hung and Daniel Pakantac in the taijiquan.

Marites Bibit also placed third in the women's individual time trial in cycling but former Tour champion Victor Espiritu could only finish fifth in the men's division.

After a medal drought in the singles, the bowlers in Bangkok continued to groove for form with the fourth place finish of Liza del Rosario and Daisy Posadas in women's doubles proving their worthiest.

Biboy Rivera and Chester King were seventh, their best, in the men's doubles.



FILIPINO Jayson Castro drives against the Indonesian defense during the Philippines' basketball match against Indonesia in the 2007 SEA Games held at the Keelapirom Stadium, Suranaree University of Technology in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand. RAFFY LERMA

PDI to grant wishes of 22 loyal readers

From page A1

tion, the INQUIRER will grant 22 loyal readers their wishes.

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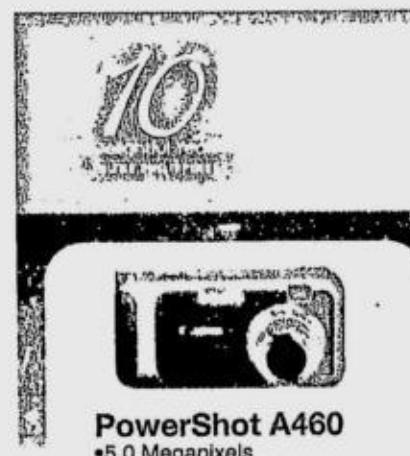
Send your answers by postal mail (Philippine Daily Inquirer, Mascardo corner Yague Streets, Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City) or by e-mail (number1@inquirer.com.ph).

Entries will be accepted from Dec. 9, 2007 to Jan. 9, 2008, and should contain the following information: Complete name of sender, residential address, landline and mobile phone numbers, and date of birth. Only one entry per sender.

Winners will be announced in the INQUIRER on Jan. 22, 2008. See print ad for more details.



JUST LIKE HOME. Filipino athletes ride a Thai "tuk-tuk" transport similar to the tricycle back home to take them to another venue of the Southeast Asian Games in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand. RAFFY LERMA



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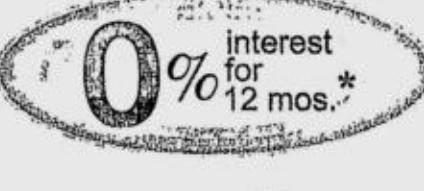


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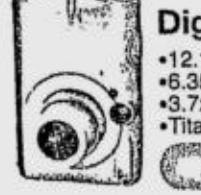
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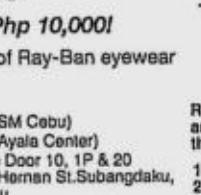
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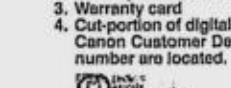
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Bohol folk protect seahorse sanctuary

From page A1

shown that they were consistently managing their areas," University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute Prof. Porfirio Alino, MSN coordinator, said after the awards rites held at the Celebrity Sports Plaza in Quezon City recently.

He also said: "You need to show that it has been sustained for a long time. It's quite a challenge if you think that it has been sustained for 20 years."

According to Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, the establishment of the MPAs has not been a priority because these were seen as constraints on the fisherfolk's goal of maximizing fish yields.

"The finalists were able to shift this negative perception through practical and appropriate strategies," he said in a speech read on his behalf by Dr. Mundita Lim, director of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau.

Illegal fishing, logging

The MSN sees the MPAs, like the Handumon marine sanctuary, as crucial to protecting the country's dwindling marine resources.

After decades of illegal fishing, only 5 percent of the country's coral reefs are in excellent condition. On the other hand, only 30 percent of the original 450,000-hectare mangrove forests remain due to logging.

For the past 30 years, over 500 MPAs have been established in the country's municipal waters, but success in managing them had been "uneven," according to the network.

Most MPAs have been hobbled by weak governance, weak law enforcement and prosecution systems, lack of funds, insufficient logistical support, conflicting interests and lack of coordination.

But still, there are some that stand out for their sustainability and good practices.

The 50-hectare Handumon marine sanctuary is part of a large barrier reef in the waters of Bohol, teeming with fish, seashells and thick mangroves, according to the MSN.

It was delineated and established in 1995, an act made official by a municipal ordinance passed three years later.

Role of Kanagmaluhan

Its establishment came naturally for mostly seaweed farmers and fishers who, years earlier, set up their Kapunungan sa Nagkahiusang Mananagat ug Lumulupyo sa Handumon (Kanagmaluhan) to protect the area from poachers and illegal fishers and reverse the dwindling trend in the fish population.

The Haribon Foundation also set up a Project Seahorse Foundation in Handumon to protect its population of seahorses.

"At first, there was resistance," said Elvira Buhol, president of Kanagmaluhan and village secretary of Handumon, who traveled by ship and plane from Bohol to receive the trophy and the P100,000 cash prize.

"Little by little, we managed to convince them by telling them that eventually fish will come back, and we wouldn't need to fish in the neighboring town's waters."

Posters on sanctuary rules were produced and fish wardens were trained on environmental protection.

Haribon trained the staff to make handicraft and eventually organize seahorse watching tours for locals and foreigners to finance the management of the marine sanctuary.

At least 2 percent of the earnings from Kanagmaluhan's handicraft industry, supplemented by barangay and municipal funds, went to the maintenance of the sanctuary, according to the MSN.

Over the years, the fisherfolk and the barangay officials strongly enforced fishery laws and regularly undertook mangrove planting and coastal cleanups. They eventually turned the sanctuary into a marine research station.

Tide turns

The result: Increased fish catch.

"After five years, the fish started coming back and there was no need to fish in other fishing grounds," Buhol said.

The Sagay marine reserve in Sagay City, Negros Oriental, home to 60 genera of hard and soft corals, 107 fish species and giant clams, placed second.

The Twin Rocks fish sanctuary in Mabini, Batangas, which teems with a variety of reef fish and shellfish, placed third.

The MSN is composed of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, PAWB, Bureau of Local Governance Development, and the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Resources and Development.

Other members include Conservation International, UP-MSI, Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation, WWR Haribon, Pama Ka Sa Pilipinas, Silliman University's Angelo King Center for Research and Environmental Management, Community-based Coastal Resource Management-Resource Center, Mindanao State University, Xavier University, Tanggol Kalikasan, Resources Environment and Economics Center for Studies Inc.

"All these show that if people are united and have a common vision and they see themselves as stewards of the areas, they can sustain these sanctuaries," Alino said.

Top boy scout searches Net for Japanese father

From page A1

mother took him back to the Philippines, leaving his father in Nagoya, Japan. The boy has not heard from him since.

"I just want him to know he has a son. And it's not that I'm bragging, but I think he would be proud of me," he said.

Toyoshima is every parent's pride and joy. Just this month, he was chosen one of the 10 Most Outstanding Boy Scouts of the Philippines, the second Dagupan to receive the award since 1980.

His feat earned him a two-year college scholarship in a government-run university in the Philippines.

Toyoshima is president of the student council of the Dagupan City National High School and news editor of the school paper, Dagupan Sparks. He is also a consistent honor student.

"I was thinking: What if he was here supporting everything that I do? Maybe, I'd be happier," Toyoshima said.

Although it was not clear to him

why his parents separated, he said it wasn't necessary for him to know.

Based on his mother's stories, Toyoshima said his parents met in Japan where his mother worked for a few months.

"I was told that he courted my mother in Dagupan and she was eventually brought to Japan where I was born," he said.

When he was growing up, Toyoshima said he wondered why his name sounded different from the other kids.

"I thought it was pretty odd since my name was not common. It was then that I was told about my father," he said.

Search begins

Toyoshima started searching for his father on the Internet when he was 10. He was then in Grade 3 at a private school here.

"We were already using computers in school and every opportunity I had, I searched for my father on the World Wide Web," he said.

He said he had used most of the popular search engines and had visited "countless" sites, including People Search, and social networking sites like Friendster and even MySpace.

Surfing till dawn

Sometimes, he would surf the Net until dawn just looking for his father. "But I still haven't found him," Toyoshima said.

He said his grandmother and guardian, Epifania Tello, would often склонять him when he arrived home late. His mother, Ma. Cristina Tello, works in an engineering firm in Metro Manila.

He said his mother had asked the Japanese Embassy in Metro Manila to look for his father, but they were told that the staff could not find him.

Mayor's help

"I am still hoping my search would bring me any information about my father," Toyoshima said.

An opportunity presented itself when

he was chosen an outstanding scout.

On Tuesday, just before he received a plaque of commendation for "bringing honor" to this city, Mayor Alipio Fernandez Jr., a former commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration, offered to help Toyoshima.

Fernandez contacted officials in his former office and asked that Toyoshima be included in the Japanese government's program of reuniting families with Japanese parents.

Being an outstanding scout also increased Toyoshima's chances to be sent as one of the country's representatives to an international scouting conference in Tokyo next year.

"I look forward to being there," he said.

Toyoshima said he would not know how to react if his father's name would pop up on his computer screen or if his father would appear at their doorstep.

"In any case, I'm ready because our motto in scouting is 'Be Prepared,'" he said.

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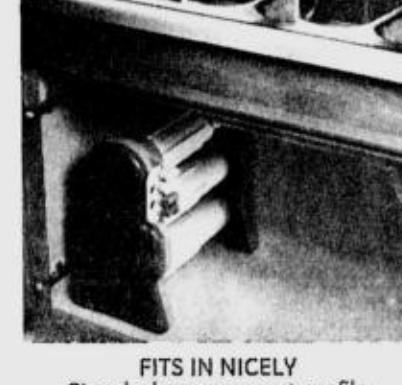
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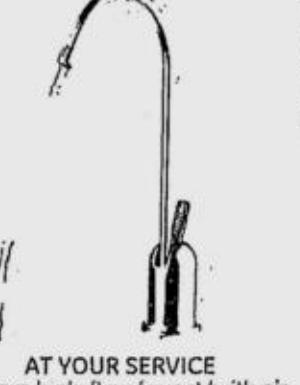
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Manobo kids urge pullout of soldiers

DAVAO CITY—DISPLACED MANOBO CHILDREN IN Lianga, Surigao del Sur, are appealing to President Macapagal-Arroyo to put a stop to the military operations in their area and help them go home for Christmas.

In a Christmas card they plan to send the President, Mary Ann Garay, 11; Alcelyn Rodriguez, 10; and Jeffrey Prado, 13, have expressed their Christmas wish to return home "peacefully" and secured as they will ask the President to pull out the sol-

diers in the area.

The children took part in psychosocial activities organized by the Kabiba Children's Alliance, as part of the recent fact-finding and medical mission led by different ecumenical groups to the different evacuation

sites in Lianga, Surigao del Sur, where intense military operations were ongoing.

More than 2,000 people have been displaced after armed troops belonging to the 58th Infantry Battalion entered their area last month allegedly in pursuit of New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

But teachers of the alternative lumad learning school based in Janipa'an said the soldiers have been disrupting classes and have been living

inside the residents' houses, prompting the residents to flee.

Honey Mae Suazo, Kabiba spokesperson, said 150 children between 2 and 17 years old, joined their activity. She described most of the children as "deeply traumatized."

Sister Elsa Compuesto, MSM, executive secretary of the Sisters' Association of Mindanao (Samin), said diseases were beginning to break out in heavily congested evacuation sites where one of them had given birth

prematurely allegedly because of stress.

"After 18 days inside the crammed evacuation site in Diatagon gym, many of the evacuees are getting sick," said Compuesto.

"A woman gave a premature birth seven days after she arrived at the gym. She was obviously stressed out after having hiked more than 20 kilometers just to reach town only to take refuge in a place that hardly gives her any amount of comfort," she added.

Over 1,000 evacuees in Diatagon gym, one of the most congested evacuation sites, have to share two toilets, which have clogged and malfunctioned, said Kristine Gimongala of the community-based health service, who participated in the medical mission.

Neglect

Poor sanitation, lack of water supply, malnutrition, poor resistance to diseases and heavy congestion continued to threaten the health of evacuees inside these evacuation sites, she explained.

"They experience not only human rights violations, their basic right to health services are also not being attended to by the government," she said.

She said diarrhea, pneumonia and influenza have become a common disease among the four evacuation sites the mission visited in Buhisan and Diatagon.

A 1-year-old baby was rushed to the hospital because of pneumonia but was denied medical attention because the hospital allegedly lacked facilities. Gimongala said the elderly evacuees also showed stress-related diseases like indigestion and hypertension.

Liang Mayor Vicente Belos Pedroso had earlier told residents to go home but the Manobo evacuees said they still feared for their safety because of their past experiences with the military.

Jona Marza, 16, recalled her experience in 2005, when her cousin, Jessie Bacasmas, was killed when the soldiers arrived. He was hauling their things into a truck on their way out of the area.

Waves of evacuations in the sitios of Diatagon in Lianga started on Nov. 21 to 24, because of the heavy presence of soldiers. Residents, mostly Manobos, took shelter in elementary school buildings in Libas, Janipa'an and Buhisan; in a barangay hall in Karas-an and a gymnasium in barangay Diatagon. *Germelina Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao*

Quezon refugees camp out in Manila

LUCENA CITY—CARRYING BACKPACKS, woven mats, kitchen utensils, and other belongings, five families, who have evacuated from General Luna and San Narciso, Quezon, because of intensified military operations in their area, are now on their fifth day of their camp-out in Metro Manila to seek the attention of national government agencies on their case.

Doris Cuario, secretary general of the human rights group Karapatan, said the families, including 16 children, slept in a makeshift camp on the grounds of the Quezon City Hall's Freedom Park.

Cuario said countless other farmers from Quezon had been displaced due to intensified counterinsurgency operations by soldiers from the Army's 74th Infantry Battalion operating in the Bondoc Peninsula and the 76th IB operating in the Lamon Bay area.

She said the displaced farmers will stage a "people's camp" until Dec. 10 to commemorate Human Rights Day.

Seven-month pregnant Neesa Ilagan said her husband, Efren, was ordered twice to report to the military detachment at the Malaya National High School where he was tortured, interrogated, and forced to admit that he was an NPA supporter, Neesa said.

She recalled that when the military ordered Efren to again report to the military on Nov. 30, his family left their home on Dec. 1 "because of fear of further torture and inhumane treatment."

She said four of her children have stopped schooling since then.

"The military treats innocent civilians as NPAs or their supporters. They do not know the difference between their enemies and the people whom they should protect and serve. They beat up our husbands and do not let us sleep because of fear when they are around," Ilagan said.

Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command officials scoffed at the accusation saying they were all "rehash and fabricated charges."

Army Maj. Randolph Cabangbang, Solcom spokesperson, said the leftist groups and protesting farmers could not even file a single legitimate case against the military for lack of credible witnesses and evidence.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Niña Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon



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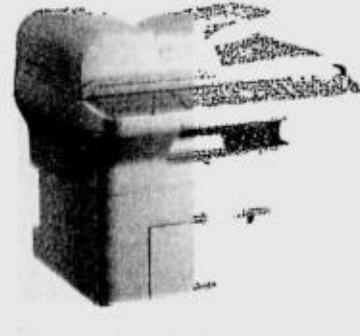
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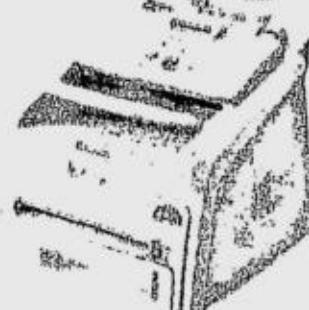
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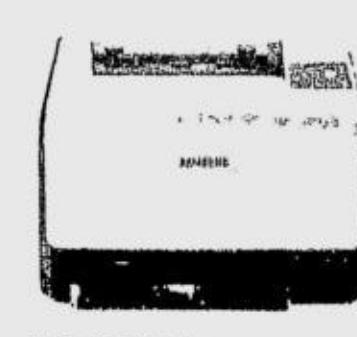


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Tacloban wants to hike taxes by 10% in 2008

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE CITY GOVERNMENT is set to introduce starting next year an ordinance that will increase local taxes by 10 percent.

The introduction of the new tax ordinance will not only shore up the city's annual revenues, now totaling over P300 million, but will also settle the city's unresolved dispute with the local business community over the tax measure introduced seven years ago, according to city treasurer Edgar Macion.

"This plan to introduce a new tax ordinance in the city is in compliance with the provision of our local government code which allows local government units to increase its taxes every five years and to settle an earlier problem which tax ordinance must be followed," Macion explained.

In 2000, the administration of then Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez introduced Tax Ordinance No. (TON) 2000-39 but it was questioned by the city's business community as "excessive and antipoor" as it imposed more than the allowable ceiling of 10 percent.

The city council later reduced the tax rates through an amendatory measure, TON 2000-58.

While the business community, represented by the Leyte Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), filed a case against the city government to stop the implementation of TON

2000-39, they were allowed to pay their taxes on rates enumerated under TON 2000-58.

The case filed by the LCCI is still pending before the Court of Tax Appeals.

Macion said that with the introduction of a new tax ordinance, the problem of which tax ordinance to be followed by the businessmen and other taxpayers would now become "moot and academic."

At present, more than 4,200 businesses operate in the city.

With a higher tax collection, the city government could finance more projects and services needed by its more than 200,000 population, he said.

Macion said the city's business sector, in a recent meeting with city officials, did not object to a 10-percent tax hike.

Orlando Uy, former immediate president of the LCCI, confirmed that the business community supports the proposed new tax ordinance.

"The proposed 10 percent increase, for us, is reasonable. And I guess this is what we have to pay as Tacloban is marching towards development," he said. "We just hope that whatever income the city government would derive out of the (increased) tax would benefit our populace."

Councilor Wilson Uy (no relation to businessman Uy), who is also a member of the LCCI, said the city council would tackle the new tax ordinance this month so it can be passed and approved for implementation by January.

More cops to be deployed to Jolo for special elections

COTABATO CITY—THE POLICE IN THE Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao will be sending additional forces in Jolo and nearby areas following an explosion of a home-made bomb near the Commission on Elections office on Dec. 8.

ARMM police chief Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao said his office was recommending to the PNP and the Comelec that policemen handle special elections and secure the electoral exercises.

Failure of elections in at least 70 villages in Mindanao, mostly in the ARMM, was declared after the teachers refused to serve last Oct. 29 due to intense political rivalries.

Goltiao said the police would ensure that the elections would be held freely and without harm to election officials and the electorate.

"We are coordinating with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, we want to ensure the elections would be peaceful and orderly," Goltiao said, reiterating PNP Chief Avelino Razon's directive to ensure the peaceful conduct of balloting.

"There should be no more failure of elections," he said. *Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

NEWSBRIEFS

Quakes hit Ilocos Sur, Norte

LAOAG CITY—Two earthquakes separately rocked Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte on Sunday, reports from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) showed.

The Phivolcs office based in Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte, said no one was reported hurt and no structure was damaged in the quakes.

Ernesto Aguirre, Phivolcs science research specialist, said fault movements caused the earthquakes but Phivolcs could not yet determine if the movements came from the Manila trench or the Bangui fault in Ilocos Norte.

The first quake, which measured magnitude 3.9 in the Richter scale, hit Ilocos Sur at 11:57 a.m. Its epicenter was located 43 km northwest of Vigan City.

The second earthquake, which measured magnitude 3.1, hit Ilocos Norte about two hours later, at 1:54 p.m. Its epicenter was located 23 km south of Laoag City.

Cristina Arzadon, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Man faces jail term for theft

ILOILO CITY—A 50-year-old man caught stealing 30 meters of electric wire from the city's lights system is now facing charges that could land him a prison term of up to 20 years.

Loreto Peñafiorla, of Arroyo Street here, was charged before the city prosecutor's office with violation of the Anti-Electricity and Electric Transmission Lines/Materials Pilferage Act of 1994, which provides for a maximum jail term of 20 years and a fine of up to P200,000.

Peñafiorla was caught by traffic aides removing the wire, coveted for its copper content, from an electric post along Ledesma Street, said Salvador Pedregosa, head of the city's Task Force Boltahé, the body tasked to clamp down on electric wire thieves.

David Israel Sinay, Inquirer Visayas

Mayor asked to leave post

SAN ANTONIO, Zambales—A judge here ordered San Antonio Mayor Romeo Lonzanida to vacate his post for violating the term limit rule of the Omnibus Election Code.

In a decision issued Nov. 27, Judge Consuelo Bocar of the regional trial court here found that Lonzanida was mayor of San Antonio from 1988 to the present. The case against Lonzanida arose from a complaint from three town residents that he was disqualified from running in the May 14 elections because he had exceeded his term limit.

Bocar named Vice Mayor Lugil Ragadio as mayor until 2010 instead of the losing candidate, Dr. Estella Antipolo, following the law of succession.

Inquirer Central Luzon

Cops search for nursing stude

STA. CRUZ, Davao del Sur—Police here have coordinated with other police offices in Mindanao to locate a 17-year-old nursing student allegedly abducted by a male textmate.

Town police chief Insp. Rowen Rey Pornobe said on Dec. 7 that Crystal May Ambrosia, a resident of Barangay Bato here, agreed to meet her textmate again, identified as Manolito Daroy, alias Alexander Rivera Devira, on Dec. 1.

Pornobe said Daroy went to the girl's house and invited her to a still undetermined place. He said it was the last time Ambrosia was seen.

Pornobe said on Dec. 4, Ambrosia sent a text message to her best friend, begging for help and saying she was being held against her will.

Pornobe said subsequent efforts to reach Ambrosia had failed.

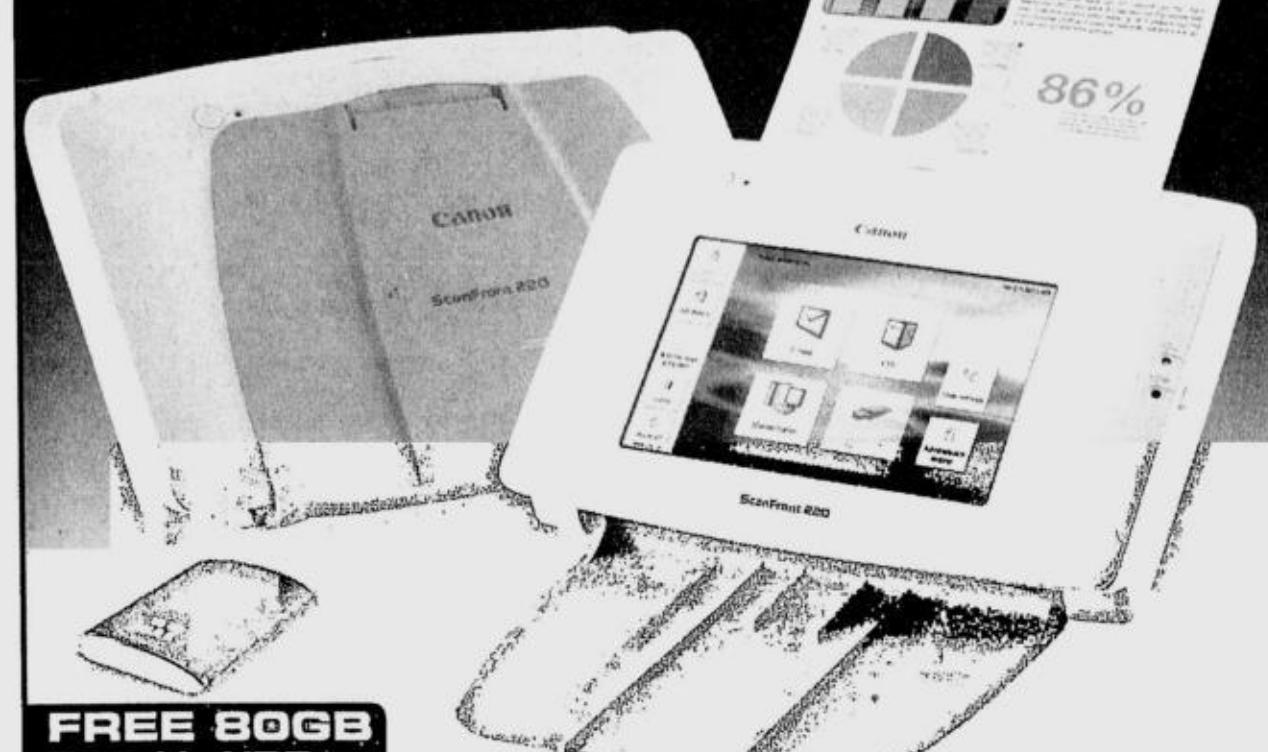
Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao



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Forging Partnerships for Peace

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The Forging Partnerships for Peace (FPP) conferences attended by Indigenous Peoples in 2005 and 2007 from all over the country provided an opportunity for the indigenous Filipinos to analyze their present struggles and situations. They drafted recommendations for the common good and future of their communities. The assessment of the two gatherings gave birth to the IP Agenda which highlighted the specific proposals pertaining to the five general themes of the gathering: Kapayapaan, Karapatan sa Lupa, Kalikasan at Kabuhayan, Karunungan, and Kultura at Kasarinlan.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S PEACE AGENDA

We, the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) of the Republic of the Philippines, unite as one to call on all sectors of society to assist us in our struggle in the security and development of our communities, state our specific recommendations on the following:

Karunungan

1. That the whole educational system should integrate IP rights and culture in all its curricula at all levels;
2. That the NCIP continue to recommend to DepEd qualified IP teachers for appointment and permanent posting especially in schools within the IP communities;
3. That massive education and information dissemination about IPRA in all IP communities, media, LGUs, government agencies, and all non-IPs be properly implemented;
4. To increase the scholarship allotment for IPs and to judiciously retain scholars based on an equitable number of slots per ethnolinguistic group and the value (rate) toward accelerated participation of IPs to formal education;
5. That the Educational Service Contract be increased and be given to schools with IP population.

Karapatan sa Lupa

1. That all FPICs be thoroughly free prior and informed consents arrived at in open, complete, transparent consultations with the community;
2. That all activities be conducted and announced in the community, written in the language of the concerned IP community;
3. That customary laws assume prior operation in any and all matters concerning IPs or of their ancestral domain;
4. That the NCIP be restructured independent of DAR and other line agencies to be more responsive, accountable and accessible to their constituents;
5. That NCIP be reminded that it is THE office for IPs especially in matters affecting the tenure, use and management of IP lands and all natural resources therein;
6. That any and all programs, projects and interventions for IPs outside of their AD be clearly spelled out with their participation and conformity toward their sustainable development;
7. Increase IP representation in field-based investigations of FPIC;
8. Reach out to and allow non-organized IPs to participate;
9. Band together the IPs, NGOs and LGUs towards land and IP rights;
10. Effectively stop large-scale mining in IP lands;
11. Reform NCIP to better serve the IPs;
12. Abolish pending mining applications in the NCIP;
13. Support other agencies and LGUs to recognize customary laws and the sustainable plans done within ancestral domains.

Kapayapaan

1. That armed groups return to the negotiating table to talk peace once more;
2. That the government, private sector, civil society and armed groups respect IP customary laws and adhere to FPIC;
3. That the IP culture of peace be sowed and multiplied through coalition building;
4. That peace zones be declared by the IPs themselves;
5. That peace consultations start with civilians on peace talks;
6. That peace IP initiatives be strengthened e.g. Bodong and the other IP communities;
7. That extra-judicial killings be addressed;
8. That there is a strong support for IP advocates and IP support groups;
9. That among NGOs a better inter-organizational coordination may exist;
10. That the NCIP implement well the IPRA;
11. That community-based IP support groups be institutionalized for the proper implementation of IPRA;
12. To build capacities for IP communities and the NCIP to effectively and efficiently implement the IPRA.

Kalikasan

1. Full recognition and support to IP peace and sustainable development agenda as embodied for instance in their community development plan;
2. NCIP to ensure a transparent, judicious and open consultation of the FPIC in accordance to customary laws to protect and enhance IP rights;
3. For government and all other entities to recognize and support IP laws and processes in relation to natural resource management;
4. IP community-based livelihood enterprises be prioritized and supported by government and all other entities such as subsidy to shift from commercial to organic farming/ sustainable agricultural systems;
5. That subsidies be encouraged for price stabilization fund of inputs and marketing cost especially of basic commodities and highly perishable goods;
6. Harmonize IPRA and all other laws subject of its repealing clause;
7. Selection of commissioners and other presidential appointees of NCIP be subjected to rigorous adherence to IPRA and open consultations with communities for short listing.

Kultura

1. Strengthen community consensus building and avoid divide and rule tactics;
2. Revisit the old indigenous values, especially by the IPs who have the capacity to improve their communities;
3. Cultivate love and respect for one's own culture through cultural assertion;
4. Unite to have one IP voice that is culturally rooted and globally competitive;
5. For the government and NCIP to recognize and accept IP ways of selecting and electing community leaders;
6. Recognize and accept IP systems and process in choosing community leader such as the exemption of local leaders from the prevailing national election process;
7. Recognize community members' responsibility in monitoring the implementation of projects that they have approved for consensus building;
8. Guidelines be set by local councils in IP representation in duly mandated bodies in conformity with IP systems and practices;
9. That the community provide adequate and appropriate support to IP leaders to communicate their ideas and community decisions in a language others can understand;
10. That IPs continuously seek creative and supportive means to implement IPRA beyond the processes and rules set by NCIP but in accordance with the spirit of the law and the realities of the communities.



Forging Partnerships for Peace Steering Committee:



KALINDOGAN 2007

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS YOUTH PEACE CONGRESS

TALAANDIG . HIGAONON . SUBANEN . MANOBO . MANOBO - ARUMANEN . MANOBO - SARANGANI . MATIGSALOG . MAMANWA . MANSAKA . MAGGWAHAN . DIBABAWN . MANDAYA . TAGABAWA . B'LAAN . BUKIDNON . UMAYAMNON . PULANGIHON . BAGOBO . BADIOG . TAUSUG . SAMA . BAGOBO - CLATA . BAGOBO - TAGABAWA . TEDURAY . TAGAKAOLO . AGUSANON . MANOBO . T'BOLI . AETA - MAGANTS . IFUGAO - TUWALI . IBALOI . KALANGUYA . KANKANA-EY . BONTOC . IKARAO . KALINGA - APPAI . APAYAO . MANGYAN - HANUNOO . MANGYAN - IRAYA . MANGYAN - BUHID . MANGYAN - TADYAWAN . MANGYAN - ALANGAN . TAGBANUA . BOTOG .

On October 16 to 19, different young individuals from 43 various tribes around the country gathered together for a four-day youth peace congress called Kalindogan 2007. The event allowed the IP youths to strengthen their roles in advancing Indigenous People's rights and provided a venue for cultural exchange and sharing of life skills, dialogue between youth and elders, and for-ging partnerships among IP youth organizations and networks. The following are the declarations of the IP youths to express their common desire for peace, justice and development among indigenous people.

INDIGENOUS YOUTH UNITY STATEMENT 2007

We, the delegates to the Kalindogan 2007, a gathering of young Indigenous Peoples (IPs) from all over the Philippines, in our commitment and desire to help in the development of our communities, wish to make the following declaration:

The Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines continue to experience prejudice and injustice, human rights abuses, and exploitation that hinder the development of ourselves and our communities. Furthermore, the IPs continue to be victimized by the wanton destruction of our country's natural resources, the prejudicial laws of the Philippine government, and the recurring conflicts caused by the misunderstanding among various groups.

We, the young Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines, shall continue to challenge our tribal communities as well as our leaders to:

- establish a unified voice that will represent our common tribe;
- respect and preserve our culture;
- face the call of protecting our ancestral lands even at the cost of one's life;
- be open to coordinate and dialogue with different government and non-government agencies in championing our human rights;
- involve the IP youth in community discussions towards the development of communities; and
- encourage with greater fervor other IPs to return to traditional ways and means of livelihood and development.

We also challenge the government to:

- observe the right process in applying the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) as a just means in making decisions;
- issue a moratorium on the releasing of applications for the operations of mining and mono-cropping plantations while discussions are ongoing as to how these will affect Ancestral Lands;
- establish, uphold, and propagate an educational system that is adapted to the needs and context of our own culture;
- align all related and conflicting laws such that they support and complement the provisions of RA 8371 (IPRA Law) and the UN declaration on the IP Rights;
- give the NCIP a government agency status independent from DAR;
- we also challenge the NCIP to be true to its mandate as the defender of the IP rights;
- support educational programs that are in line with our indigenous culture of the IP youth that will be established by NGOs and IPOs.

We also challenge and encourage the NGOs and the Church to:

- listen to us IPs and respect our culture in creating and in implementing projects;
- support and listen to the general issues of the IPs
- undergo the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) process.

We also challenge our fellow young IPs to:

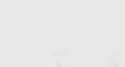
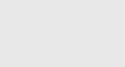
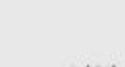
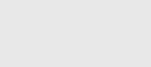
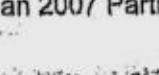
- participate and join the elders in discussing issues that affect our tribe, as well as the general modern and development issues of society;
- stand up for our own culture and the true aspirations of our communities.

We the delegates are committed to:

- establish core groups in our communities that will work to encourage awareness and greater involvement among other youth; and
- coordinate with the different IP communities, agencies and other support groups;
- lead efforts that promote order in our tribe;
- endeavor to become a united voice that will represent our communities in various branches of government, as well as in national and local movements.



Kalindogan 2007 Partners:



Lawyers say amparo opens door to human rights awareness

BAGUIO CITY—MORE THAN A MONTH since guidelines for the application of the writ of amparo have been released, awareness of the country's human rights situation and of the rights of victims has improved, lawyers said.

"There is more awareness of the human rights situation [in the country] and some sort of encouragement on the part of the government to take human rights seriously," said Judge Cleto Villacorta III, founding member of the Counsels for the Defense of Civil Liberties (Codal).

In a forum on the writ of amparo at the Saint Louis Center Hall here on Dec. 4, Villacorta said other human rights lawyers are also discussing the use of the writ against

the government after United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston linked the Armed Forces of the Philippines to human rights violations and extrajudicial killings in the country.

Villacorta said lawyers could initiate a petition for the writ to compel the government to stop any campaign or program that might violate human rights. One of these campaigns is the Oplan Bantay Laya, the government's antiinsurgency program, he said.

The writ of amparo is the latest remedy available to any person whose right to life, liberty and security has been violated or is threatened by an unlawful act by public officials or employees and by private individuals or groups.

It was promulgated following the recommendation from the national consultative summit on extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances called by Chief Justice Reynaldo Puno in July.

Villacorta, a founding member of the National Union of People's Lawyers (NUPL), said that under the writ, the government would be compelled to act to improve the human rights situation.

"What we try to do is to see how restrictive this law is. We are trying to see if the provisions could be extended to include the government in the writ, because in the Alston report, it only [identified] a government institution and not certain individuals," he said.

The writ has yet to bear results in finding missing activist Jonas Burgos and University of the Philippines students Karen Empie and Sherlyn Cadapan.

"The writ will not stop the violations, but it may help improve the human rights situation [in the country]," Villacorta said.

"There should be a continuing documentation of human rights violations. The writ gives us hope but it will not solve all the problems. We should continue to assert our rights," said lawyer Randy Kinuad, secretary general of Cordillera Human Rights Alliance. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Palawan mountain range declared off limits to mining

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—WITH MOST OF the entire Southern Palawan already practically covered by mining applications and several ongoing large scale nickel mining operations, the provincial government on Dec. 6 declared a mining moratorium in the region's last remaining contiguous forest bloc, the Mt. Mantalingahan Range.

Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes called for a moratorium on all mining activities inside the proposed protected area covering 126,348 hectares of mostly old growth forests that straddles five municipalities.

The proposal to declare the area as a protected landscape is in its final stage of approval, having been endorsed last month by the Mindanao Regional Development Council for signature of the President, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"We will no longer accept any mining application in Mt. Mantalingahan and we will see to it that the President will sign the order to declare it as a protected area," Reyes said.

He made the declaration at the close of a one-day mining summit organized by the DENR and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and was attended by local and national policy makers, mining industry representatives and the civil society sector.

"This is a welcome development and good news for our municipality," Brooke's Point Vice Mayor and antimining activist lawyer Jean Feliciano told the INQUIRER.

DENR and provincial records show that there are more than 30 pending applications

'We will no longer accept any mining application in Mt. Mantalingahan'

for Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSA) in the five municipalities that share boundaries with Mt. Mantalingahan.

There are also two major nickel mining operations around the protected area—the Berong Nickel project in Quezon and Coral Bay Nickel operation in Bataraza, which is the country's largest exporter of nickel ore.

Lucio Tan's MacroAsia group is also expected to start soon another MPSA operation for nickel ore in Brooke's Point.

Environmentalists have lobbied for the protection of Mt. Mantalingahan Range, citing its importance as a watershed for the lowland towns of Southern Palawan and its high biological diversity.

An expedition conducted early this year by Conservation International yielded several new species of plants and animals, including an orchid and a mountain shrew that is now known to exist only in the locality.

Also at the mining summit, Reyes ordered the inclusion of additional civil society representatives in the multi-sectoral monitoring bodies that are independently overseeing the operations of mining companies in Southern Palawan and their compliance with their environmental clearance permits.

Nongovernment groups have lobbied for their representation in several of these bodies, including the Provincial Mining and Regulatory Board which approves small-scale mining applications and quarry permits in Palawan. *Redempto Anda, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Veggie farmers seek protection

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Farmers were getting agog over the surge in the trading of vegetables at the trading post here but were asking local officials and the Department of Agriculture to help them in their campaign against midnight traders, bouncing checks and "kotong" or extortion.

Traders' trucks from Manila and lowland provinces were competing for space with trucks coming from the province's vegetable farms, causing a heavy traffic on the road going to the trading post.

More porters, buyers, packers and disposers were crowding the trading center's 24-hour operation.

Potatoes, carrots, cabbages and chayote were leading the heavy volume of vegetables traded wholesale as business was expected to further peak in the coming days of the Yuletide.

VEGETABLE trading in Benguet is expected to peak in the coming days of the Yuletide.

EV ESPERITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Manila and other provinces.

Patricio Ananayo, the DA's agribusiness marketing and assistance division chief in the Cordillera, said the data would assure the stability of vegetable supply in line with the government's food security program.

"The increased business activity here indicates that there is also an increased demand for vegetables in the metropolitan area and other provinces," he said.

But farmers have asked the province's vegetable industry leaders and agriculture officials to implement measures to curb extortion by policemen and Land Transportation Office agents.

The BTIA's members have raised the same concern, fearing that the multiplying activities would also become rampant this season.

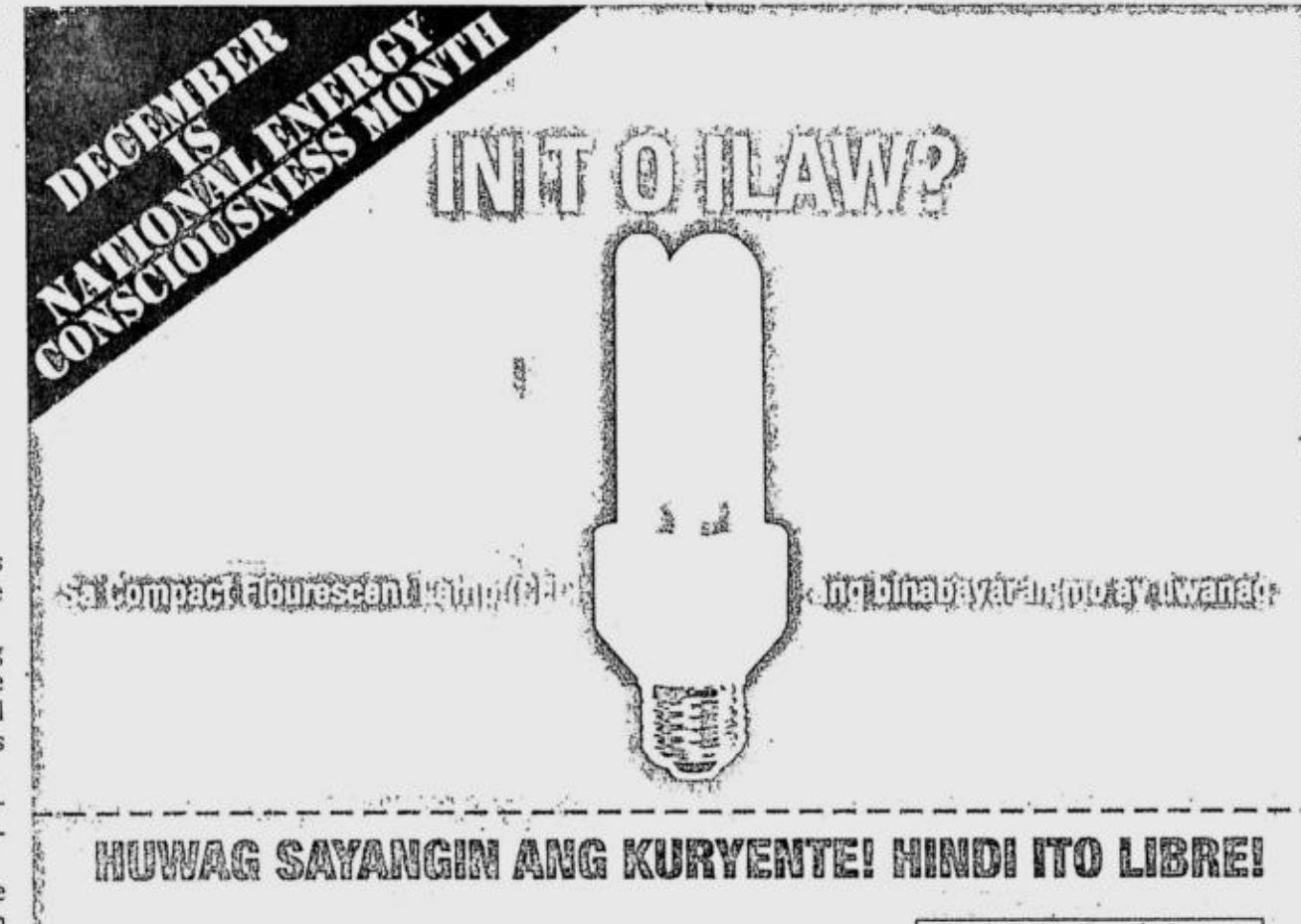
Lantico Copas, a farmer-trader, said the authorities must also adopt measures to prevent the arrival of midnight traders, or those buyers who visit the trading post only during the Yuletide and order supplies of vegetables but would not pay after the vegetables have been delivered to Manila.

"This time, the farmers' production would be directly confronted by the peak in demand," he said.

The DA and the Benguet Truckers and Traders Association (BT-TA) were about to sign a memorandum of agreement for the creation of a task force to monitor the daily volume of vegetables hauled from the trading post to

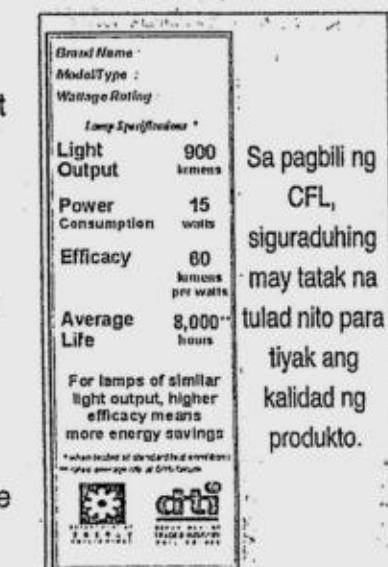
Copas said there were also traders who pay their orders by check that were often rejected by the bank due to lack of funds.

"The farmers often end up being victimized," he said. *Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



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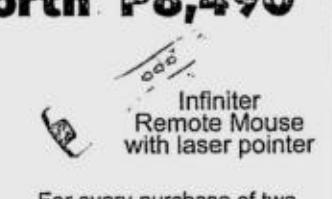
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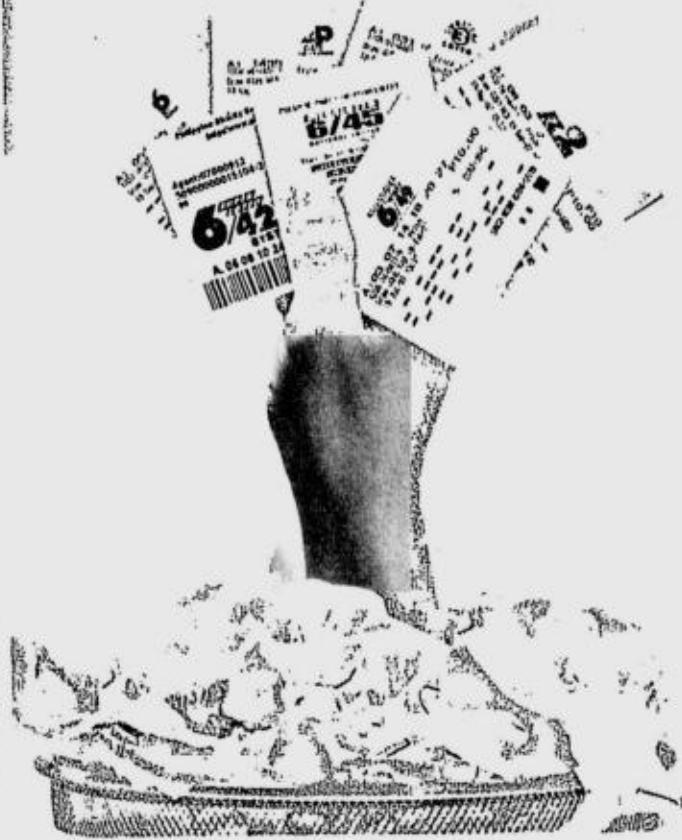
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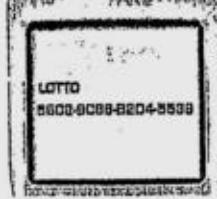
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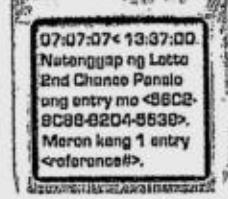
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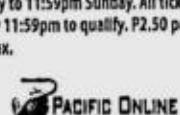
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D. Draws will be announced on leading newspapers.
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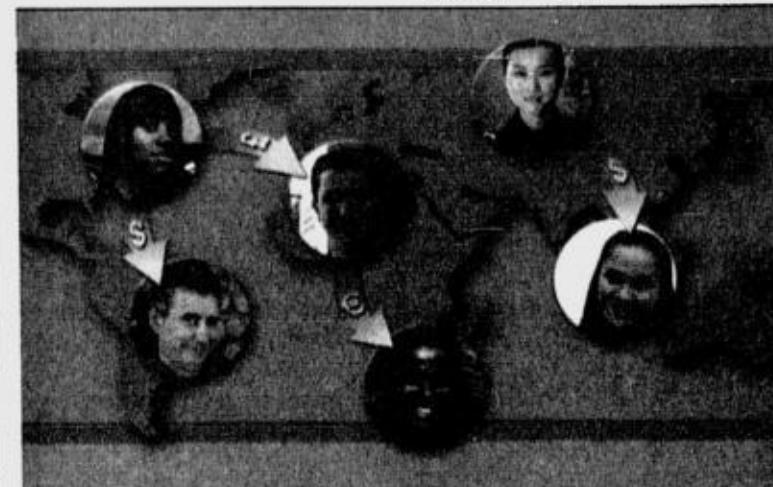
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MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2007

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PUREFOODS center Romel Adducul commits a foul as he tries to reach over the back of Welcoat's Adonis Sta. Maria.

RYAN LIM

Giants trip Dragons

GAMES WEDNESDAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:50 p.m.—Magnolia vs Coca-Cola
7:20 p.m.—Air21 vs Alaska

By June Navarro

PUREFOODS EXPLOITED THE
eviction of Welcoat prized
rookie Joe De Vance on fouls
to pull off a hard-earned 92-
80 win in the Smart-PBA
Philippine Cup last night at
the Cuneta Astrodome.

Raymundo presided over a
ruthless scoring blitz by drilling in

eight of his 21 points right after
De Vance, this year's top overall
pick, got booted out for committing
two quick fouls in a span of
15 seconds.

De Vance drew the referee's
whistle for smothering Romel Ad-
ducul at low post and immediate-
ly fetched his final foul in the en-
suing play after slapping the wrist
of a driving Raymundo with still
eight minutes and 49 seconds to
go.

"The six fouls of De Vance defi-
nitely gave us a huge
lift," said Purefoods
coach Ryan Gregorio
after the Giants re-
covered from back-
to-back losses inflict-
ed by the Magnolia
Beverage Masters
and the Talk N' Text
Phone Pals.

After the 6-foot-7
De Vance left the
floor, the Giants
broke loose and easily
transformed a 73-
71 edge to a double-
digit spread on the
incursions of Adducul
and Raymundo's
accurate perimeter
shooting.

Without a take-
charge guy to turn to,
the Dragons decided
to cling to Belasco,
who tried but failed
to single-handedly
prevent Welcoat
from suffering a fifth
straight defeat.

The Dragons
plummeted to their
ninth loss overall
with only three victories
to show.

Paolo Mendoza
came through with a
fade-away jumper in
the last 4.6 seconds
to lift Sta. Lucia Reali-
ty to a come-from-be-
hind 79-78 victory
over Barangay Gine-
bra in the other game.

The Realtors im-
proved to 6-6. The
Kings lost for the
eighth time in 13
games.

The scores:
First Game
PUREFOODS 92—Yap J.
21, Raymundo 21, Adducul
14, Simon 13, Pingris 8, Yap
R. 7, Lanet 6, Evangelista 2,
Sanz 0, Salvador 0.

WELCOAT 80—De Vance
25, Belasco 25, Lopez 8,
Wainwright 6, Dulay 5,
Ibañez 5, Geling 4, Sta. Maria
2, Araña 0, Mente 0.

Quarters: 26-25; 43-42;
68-62; 92-80

Second Game
STA. LUCIA REALTY
79—Williams 16, Espino 16,
Omolon 14, Reyes 12,
Aquilino 6, Mendoza 6, Yeo 5,
Miranda 4, Mamaday 0,
Coronel 0, Da 0, Gonzales
0.

GINEBRA 78—Heller-
brand 19, Menk 14, Salva-
cion 12, Artadi 9, Mamaril 9,
Tubid 7, Cagulao 6, Reavis 2,
Macapagal 0, Santos 0.

Quarters: 24-16, 35-33,
51-59, 79-78

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Oil spill's spread to Laguna Lake feared

By DJ Yap

AN OIL SPILL IN A CREEK IN Muntinlupa City, the second to occur in the city in three weeks, threatened to spread to the Laguna Lake yesterday, prompting city officials to try to contain and absorb the oil.

The volume of the spilled black oil, which was thick, foul-smelling and appeared to be bunker oil, was not immediately known but officials said it could fill 10 drums.

Members of the city's Lake Management Office quickly put in place several boom spills, a

foam-like device used to absorb oil, in an attempt to contain its spread in a creek at the Villa Carolina I Subdivision in Barangay Tunasan.

Residents reported the spill at about 9 a.m., said Tomas Landrito, chief of the LMO.

He said water from the creek

flows into the Tunasan-San Pedro boundary river and the Tunasan-Cuyab river, which ends up at Laguna de Bay.

Landrito said his office would investigate the source of the spilled oil, adding that it was possible that it leaked from one of the factories in the neighbor-

ing town of San Pedro, Laguna.

He said their main concern at the moment was to ensure that the oil would not reach and pollute Laguna Lake.

On Nov. 22, used oil was reportedly dumped in the Tunasan-Cuyab River which later spread to the Tunasan shoreline

of Laguna Lake and resulted in a fish kill.

A team from the Laguna Lake Development Authority found that the used oil came from a coffee plant in San Pedro, Laguna. The name of the company was withheld pending the completion of the final report.



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LAGING madilim sa aming lugar kaya delikado kapag gabi na. May street lamp pero walang ilaw (It's always dark in our neighborhood especially at night. There are street lamps, but the lights don't work). Please help. Thank you.

ADOLFO FULLO, 47, Old Antipolo Street, Tondo, Manila

Footbridge needed badly

WE ARE hoping that a footbridge will soon be built at the SM Fairview annex going to Robinson mall so that pedestrians can cross the

street safely. I almost got hit by a car while crossing using the pedestrian lane. When it rains, it gets flooded in the area and one has to pay to cross a makeshift bridge.

JASMINE ABELLA-BAUTISTA, 37, Camarin, Caloocan City

Nightmare on Ylava Street

ATTENTION, Mayor Lim! What is happening to Ylava Street in Divisoria? Vendors and their wares are already on the streets. There's no space for pedestrians! Please do something about it.

JENNY, 41, Manila

Four-lane street now two-lane roadway

MAYOR Lim, please naman! Matagal na kam-

ing hirap na hirap sa sobrang trapik. Maraming naka-park na sasakyang San Andres Street. Ang four lanes nagiging two lanes na lang (Mayor Lim, we have long suffered because of the traffic problem in our area. There are a lot of vehicles parked on San Andres Street. The four lane street is now reduced to a two-lane thoroughfare).

NOEL SORIANO, 50, South Superhighway, San Andres, Manila

Bridge used as home

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REBECCA CRUZ, 60, Protacio Street, Pasay City

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Disappointed followers file complaint vs religious leader

By Allison W. Lopez

LURED BY THEIR LEADER'S PROMISE OF money, more than 600 members of a religious group went to the Quirino Grandstand at Rizal Park in Manila early morning yesterday.

The members of the Kingdom of Almighty God, some of whom had come all the way from Quezon province, began gathering in front of the grandstand at 3 a.m.

By noon, however, no money had been distributed and the hungry crowd started to disperse. Five of them later went to the police to file a complaint for estafa and attempted estafa against their leader, Salvador de Corazon, who was reportedly

holed up inside the Manila Hotel.

PO2 Ronald Carlos of Manila Police District's General Assignments Section, said the five told him that they represented some 670 members of the religious group who by then had already gone back to their homes in Atimonan, Quezon; Payatas, Quezon City; Makati and Taguig cities.

According to the complainants, De Corazon had promised to distribute P100,000 worth of cash gifts to his members at the Quirino Grandstand.

The five also asked the police to go after their coordinators who had asked them to pay membership fees ranging from P100 to P500.

Thieves enter house, kill owner

By Jeannette I. Andrade

BONNET-WEARING MEN BELIEVED TO BE robbers stabbed to death a 51-year-old man inside his home before dawn yesterday in Caloocan City.

DID YOU KNOW

THE BEATLES performed at the Rizal Memorial Football Stadium in Manila on July 4, 1966. The band's 4 p.m. performance drew 30,000 spectators, while the 8:30 p.m. concert had 50,000 persons in the audience. Grandstand ringside tickets cost P30 each.

The British group performed less than a dozen songs after the performances of front acts that included Pilila Corrales and the Reycard Duet.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Reports from the Caloocan City police identified the victim as Lemuel Umali, a resident of 508 West Reparo Road in Barangay Bagong Barrio East.

He died at the Manila Central University hospital.

Ruby, the victim's wife, said the incident happened at around 3:30 a.m. yesterday.

She said she and her husband were sleeping in the bedroom when they were awakened by noise coming from the living room.

When Lemuel stepped out of their room to see what the cause of the noise was, he was met by two knife-wielding men wearing bonnets.

One of the masked men then repeatedly stabbed Lemuel in the body, causing Ruby to scream for help and the robbers to run out of the house.

Caloocan City policemen said they were conducting operations for the identification and arrest of the suspects.

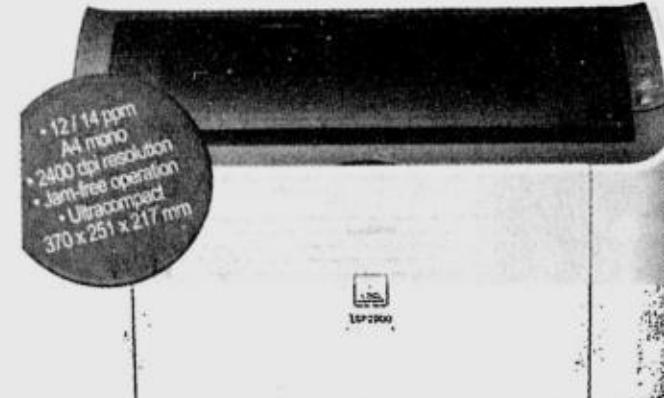
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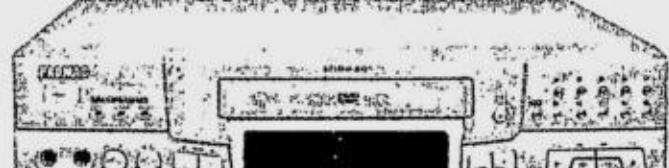
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...how far we much
we lesser from the height. Steep and so royal from the balcony to the pedestal,
at the top, George Renter contemplated a vast expanse of sky and discerned the
hill of the God from the elevated deck of the temple. During Padre Jose
Romanceta's speech and in the black-robed company surveyed the cool
height of the noble and ever-loyal city of Manila on April evening in
1859, the following words of them their mission to the hill of
Manila would be recited in the sacred hallways of the
Ateneo Municipal de Manila.

Today, on our 188th anniversary, as the Ateneo de Manila begins its three-year countdown
to its sesquicentennial year we continue to stand on hill and we, from the past, whose names
are recalled upon to serve.

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because we know that we
can never be but only if we grow to our highest potential. The Greeks call it *telos* and the Romans call
it *summum*. In whatever language it is named, it represents the best and the highest human being can achieve.

In this spirit, the Ateneo de Manila has kept alive a tradition of *magis* which refers to the power to touch
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which is in place for everything and everything is in its
place. Thus in the almost 150 years of our history, Ateneans
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fields of human endeavor, be it whether in science or in the
arts, in business or in the social sciences, in law or in public
service, as a human mindful always of the *summum* duty to
excellence, pool to the sake of excellence alone, out of that we
can reach *magis*. *De gloriam.*

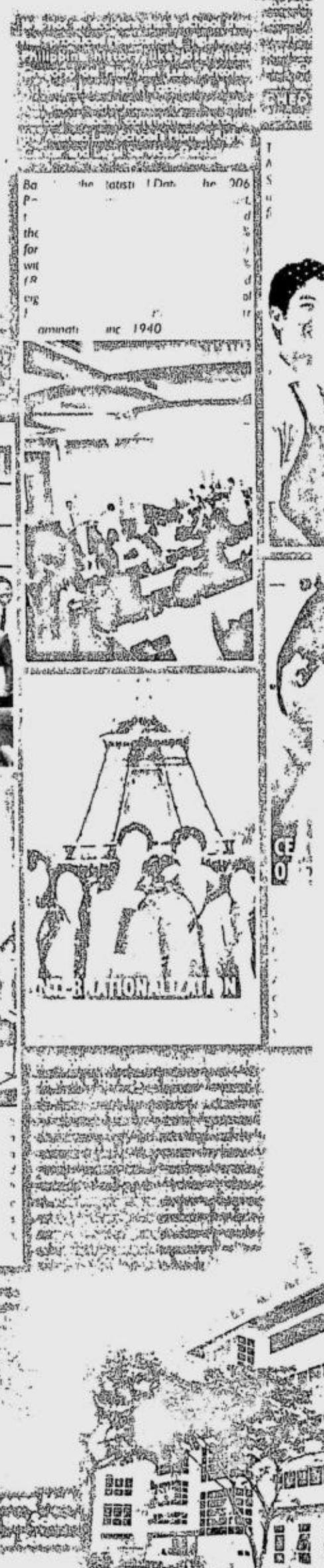
De gloriam. De gloriam.

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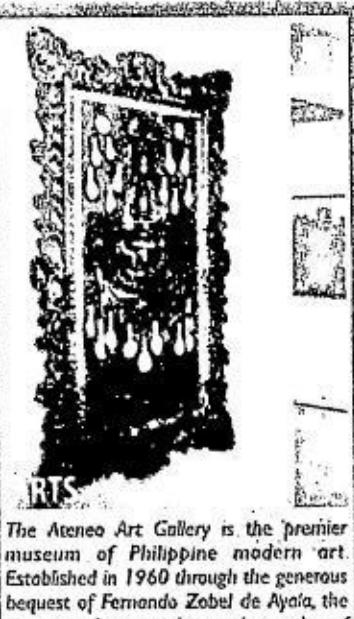
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Probe of videotape destruction opens

WASHINGTON—THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT and the CIA's internal watchdog have announced a joint inquiry into the spy agency's destruction of videotaped interrogations of two suspected terrorists as the latest scandal to rock US intelligence gathered steam.

The review will determine whether a full investigation is warranted.

"I welcome this inquiry and the CIA will cooperate fully," CIA Director Mike Hayden said in a statement Saturday. "I welcome it as an opportunity to address questions that have arisen over the de-

struction back in 2005 of videotapes."

The House Intelligence Committee is launching its own inquiry next week. It will investigate not only why the tapes were destroyed and Congress was not notified, but also the interrogation methods that "if released, had the potential to do such grave damage to the United States of America," said Chair Rep. Silvestre Reyes on Saturday.

"This administration cannot be trusted to police itself," said Reyes, a Democrat.

The Senate Intelligence committee also is investigating.

Hayden told agency employees Thursday that the recordings were destroyed out of fear the tapes would leak and reveal the identities of interrogators. He said the sessions were videotaped to provide an added layer of legal protection for interrogators using new, harsh methods authorized by President George W. Bush as a way to break down the defenses of recalcitrant prisoners.

The CIA's acting general counsel, John Rizzo, is preserving all remaining records related to the videotapes and their destruction. Kenneth L. Wainstein, an assistant attorney general, asked that

they be handed over along with any relevant internal reviews.

Justice Department officials, lawyers from the CIA general counsel's office and CIA Insp. Gen. John Helgerson will meet early this coming week to begin the preliminary inquiry, Wainstein wrote Rizzo on Saturday.

Helgerson has been highly critical in classified reports of the agency's treatment of detainees. In October, the CIA confirmed that a close Hayden aide was reviewing his work, raising concern in Congress that the independence of the office was under attack.

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Long course suits golfers just fine

By Musong R. Castillo

BONANZA RANCH KHAOYAI—A PHILIPPINE men's squad that said it likes the course opens defense of its title Monday as golf action in the 24th Southeast Asian Games tees off at the 7,483-yard, par-72 Bonanza Golf and Country Club here.

"It's just a long course, but it can turn out to be a friendly one," Mark Fernando said in Fil-

ippines after the final practice round on Sunday

at the layout that, in some aspects, could be as

forgiving as the shortest courses back home.

"We can hit it (off the tees) as hard as we

can, because the fairways are so wide," added Fernando, one of two National Caddies' Open products, along with Jonel Ababa, who are ex-

pected to play vital roles in the RP campaign.

Ababa, Ferdinand Aunzo and reigning RP Amateur champ Anthony Fernando are the other members of the all-rookie SEAG squad that will try to duplicate the feat of Juvic Pa-

gunsan, Artemio Murakami and Jay Bayron at

The Country Club in Laguna in 2005.

Mark carded a 70 and Aunzo a 69 Sunday,

while Anthony was good for a 78 and Ababa a

79 in Sunday's practice.

The Bonanza course, located about 120

kilometers from the main stadium, is like a young Sta. Elena layout in Laguna, its fairways perfectly manicured and its greens sleek.

There is an abundance of ravines and water hazards but the absence of full-grown trees to punish errant drives could yield low scores.

"There's an even chance (at winning)," said non-playing captain Caloy Coscoluela when asked whether the favored Thais are beatable. "Even if they (Thais) are playing on their home soil, we know we can give them a good fight."

Thailand will be coming off a win in the Pura Cup, also held at The Country Club last week, nipping the RP team by only two shots.

RP men raze foes, but women fall

From page A29

That 16-point losing margin could very well tell on the RP ladies, who will still play Malaysia on Wednesday needing to win by a bigger margin while hoping that Thailand loses one of its last two matches to forge a tiebreak for the crown.

The elimination-round topnotcher in both divisions automatically wins the gold medal. As it currently stands, the RP women are minus 4 on quotient after two outings.

For a while, it looked like the RP women would carve a historic achievement in the biennial meet. The RP ladies took a 32-29 lead into the third period. There, however, they started coming apart, falling prey to errors and taking low-percentage shots against a Thai defense that wouldn't allow any other option.

Leading scorer Melissa Jacob had to sit out most of the period because of fouls.

Thailand took a 50-36 bubble after the third that was never threatened until the end.

"We expected it to be the championship game, but Indonesia seemed to have played without any interest in winning the gold medal," said Baculi, who moved within two games of a sweep and an eighth title for the Philippines since 1991.

The scores:
Men's Game

PHILIPPINES 75—Norwood 19, Cruz 11, Fernandez 9, Salangsang 8, Alonzo 7, Chan 6, Vergara 5, Belga 4, Bautista 2, Castro 2, Rodriguez 2, Tan 0.

INDONESIA 49—Gunawan 10, Julius 9, Wuyang 8, Ekayana 6, Prihantoro 6, Poedjakkesuma 4, Situmorang 3, Widayat 2, Isman 1, Sondak 0, Okorda 0, Tiara 0.

Quarters: 23-18, 46-24, 63-32, 75-49.

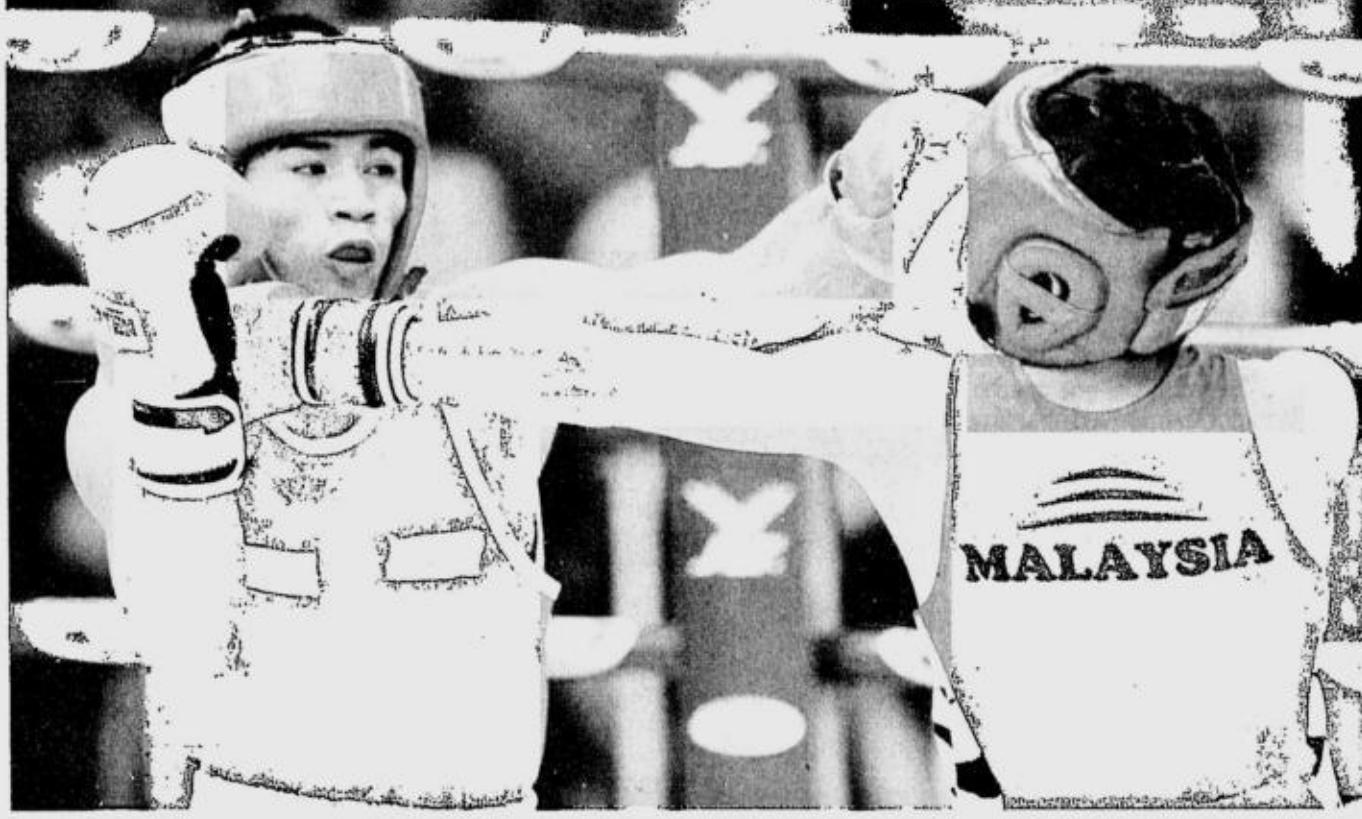
Women's Game

THAILAND 70—Yothanan 18, Tunsaw 13, Banmoo 12, Luddok 9, Charoenrat 6, Pungkoksong 5, Mathuros 4, Suk-

somwong 3, Chidprerhat 0.

PHILIPPINES 54—Brick 18, Grajales 11, Valencia 7, Tioseco 6, Jacob 5, Tolentino 3, Matsuno 2, Narciza 2, Vega 0, Issa 0.

Quarters: 15-18, 29-32, 50-36, 70-54



FLYWEIGHT Godfrey Castro (left) tags Malaysia's Karim Mohammad Ali Abdul with a left straight in their semifinal bout. AFP

RP with a 14-8 win over Vietnam's Duc Trong Hua.

"We are on target," said Amateur Boxing Association president Manny Lopez, who opted to pull out his top fighters from the tournament here.

Lopez did not specify their goal but the task of retaining the boxing champion has loomed awesome for the Fil-

ippines, who will have to face members of the strong and solid Thailand Team A, led by Athens Olympics light welter gold medalist Manus Boonjamnong in the finals.

Boonjamnong meets the comebacker Semillano while Castro faces the flashy Somjit Jongjohor, who is seeking his sixth straight SEA Games gold, in the

closing round.

The remaining semifinal bouts for the 17-strong RP team, which has lost a total of three fighters, will be fought today.

There were only three boxers entered in the women's featherweight class and Sofla made it to the finals ahead of her teammates after drawing a bye during the opening draw.

Marathon bets fail to live up to hype, settle for bronzes

By Musong R. Castillo

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—Filipino marathoners failed to live up to hype on Sunday and settled for bronze medals, diminishing hopes the athletics contingent will meet its gold-medal target at the 24th Southeast Asian Games here.

Eduardo Buenavista clocked two hours, 27 minutes and 21 seconds for the punishing 42.195-kilometer grind around this bustling province, finishing almost four minutes behind Indonesian ace Yahuza Yahuza, who timed 2:23:46.

Jho Ann Banayag held the lead entering the final 5 km, a slightly uphill trek to the finish, before losing steam and checking in behind Thailand's Sunisa Sailomyen and Myanmar's Pa Pa.

Sailomyen breasted the tape in 2:43:33, way off the 12-year-old SEAG mark of 2:34:29 held by Indonesian Ruwiyat but enough to give Thailand its eighth gold in athletics.

"She (Sailomyen) was really strong, especially in the final five kilometers," Banayag said in Filipino.

Banayag's new RP record

Banayag consoled herself with a new RP record of 2:44:41, almost a minute faster than the old mark. It was also a great improvement from her fourth-placed clocking of 2:59:04 in the 2005 Manila SEAG.

The veteran Roy Vence arrived sixth in 2:35:57, while defending champion Christabel Martes, who gave birth earlier this year, was the only one not to finish in the compact 10-strong women's race.

Martes ruled the event in 2:47:07 in the Manila Games despite getting blisters just 5 km into the race.

The twin setbacks left the Philippines with only four events—men's javelin, long jump, 400 meters and the 10,000m—where Fil-



A GAMES medic attends to Filipino Eduardo Buenavista who injured his knee in yesterday's men's marathon. RAFFY LERMA

ippines are expected to snare the gold, according to track and field officials.

Buenavista, who shifted to the marathon after a disgraceful disqualification in the 5,000m in Manila two years ago, offered no excuses and said he lost to superior runners.

Buenavista's bronze matched Allan Ballester's feat in the last SEAG, when he finished behind Thailand's Boonchoo Jandacha.

Third straight gold

Danilo Fresnedi will shoot for a third straight SEAG gold in the javelin throw on Monday while long jumper Henry Dagmil tries to complete a Filipino sweep of the event after Marestela Torres seized the women's gold on her final attempt on Saturday.

Julius Sermona, who narrowly lost the 5,000m gold on Friday to Boonthung Srisung of Thailand, is giving himself more than an even chance to bag the 10,000-meter title.

"I noticed that he (Srisung) lost a lot of ground in the last few laps of the 5,000," Sermona said in Filipino. "I know that I can hold my own in the longer 10,000."

The 10,000m will also be run on Monday and Srisung, who has a personal best of 30:40:47, is still the heavy favorite to win. The 29-year-old Sermona has a best of 32:14.

Athletics won a total of nine gold medals in Manila, which contributed heavily to the Philippines' maiden SEAG overall crown.

SEA GAMES Medal Tally

COUNTRY	G	S	B	Indonesia	13	20	22
Thailand	65	58	40	Myanmar	2	10	12
Vietnam	28	13	39	Laos	2	0	9
Singapore	23	19	14	Cambodia	1	2	5
Philippines	16	25	43	Brunei	0	1	0
Malaysia	15	13	29	Timor Leste	0	0	0

SEA GAMES Medal Tally

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Philippines	16	25	43	Brunei	0	1	0
Malaysia	15	13	29	Timor Leste	0	0	0

RP sends 7 pugs to finals

Albania leads charge, but tough Thais stay unbeaten

By Recah Trinidad

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—POLICE woman Annie Albania, an Asian flyweight champion, led a six-strong RP charge Sunday into the final round where the Thailand team, which has yet to lose a single bout, awaits the Filipinos in its grim bid to regain the boxing championship it lost in Bacolod City two years ago.

Albania, pride of Baguio City, blazed her way to a second-round stoppage, (15-0), referee stopped contest-outscored), of Myanmar's Hnin El Swe, to fire off her six other teammates that lost only one man at the start of the two-day semifinals at the Mueanpug Municipal Stadium yesterday.

Despite submitting a 6-1 card following the lone defeat suffered by pin-weight Bill Vicera yesterday, RP has formally pushed in a total of seven finalists that included featherweight Ronjan Sofla, who automatically moved into the gold-medal round by virtue of a bye.

Bantamweight Jouvelier Chilem, a gold medalist in Bacolod City two years ago, swamped Myanmar's Hnin Momo Naing, 12-0, for a sensational follow-up to Albania's opening win.

Flyweight Godfrey Castro outclassed Malaysian Mohammed Ali Abdul Karim, 20-0, featherweight Orlando Tacuyan Jr. beat Myanmar's Yan Nang Soe, 15-0, light-welterweight Larry Semillano blanked Indonesia's Eric Keygen Amanpuyo, 11-0, before middleweight Junie Tizon closed the victorious day for

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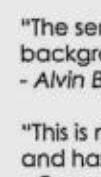
- Maria Alma Nimfa Sayas Edan, Janssen Pharmaceutica

"The seminar provided a mix of professionals from different business backgrounds. Good learning environment!"

- Alvin B. Pascual, Smart Communications, Inc.

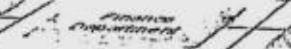
"This is my first time to attend this session. So far, everything discussed is new and has been very helpful!"

- Gregorio P. Catapang, North Luzon Command (NOLCOM)



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MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2007

24TH SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES

A

GOOD FOR BRONZE
 Filipino Janice Hung performs her routine in the taijiquan event of the wushu competition at the Kebkanjana Hall, Chanapolkhan Institute of Technology gymnasium in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand. The Philippine squad also won two bronze medals in the sport courtesy of Rene Catalan in men's sanshou's under-52 kg division and Daniel Pakantac in men's taijiquan. RAFFY LERMA



Amit snatches 9-ball pool gold from jaws of defeat

By Musong R. Castillo

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—RUBILEN AMIT snatched the second Philippine gold in billiards Sunday afternoon after climbing out of a deep hole against an angelic-looking Indonesian in the women's 9-ball finals at the 24th Southeast Asian Games.

The pocket-sized Amit rallied from a 2-5 deficit in the alternate-break title match to down Angeline Magdalena Ticoalu, 7-5, to match her victory in the same event in the 2005 Games and put away the Philippines' second title in as many days at the Sima Thani Hall here.

Amit, a double gold medalist two years ago counting her 8-ball triumph, pounced

on a golden opportunity in the 12th rack after Ticoalu broke dry. She then won out in a splendid defensive battle to pocket the No. 8 and eventually clean up the table.

Ticoalu, who took out tournament No. 2 Suhana Dewi Sabtu, 7-5, in the quarterfinals, actually had a chance to win that frame after Amit left the green No. 6 in the mouth of the right corner pocket.

But the only chance the Indonesian had was to play a long one-cushion shot from the bottom rail after Amit's miss left the cue ball almost kissing the black 8.

Amit, a double gold medalist two years ago counting her 8-ball triumph, pounced

"It was a tough match and I enjoyed some breaks out there," Amit, who started playing the game as a 12-year-old in Cebu, said in Filipino. "She was good and I needed to be at my best to be able to get back and have a shot at winning in the end."

It was the Filipino pool players' second gold after Marlon Manalo and Antonio Gabica ruled the 9-ball doubles on Saturday at the expense of Singapore, 11-6.

Amit, the top seed who drew an opening-round bye, needed just three match wins to retain her gold medal.

She turned back Sri Wahyuni of Indonesia in the quarterfinals, 7-5, before showing Thai Santhinee Jaisuekul the door with a masterful 7-2 victory in the Final Four.

Filipino medalists (As of Dec. 9, 2007)

GOLD
 1. Joey Barba, Mountain Bike (Men's Downhill)
 2. Ryan Arabejo, Swimming (Men's 200m Back)
 3. Miguel Molina, Swimming (Men's 400m Individual Medley)
 4. Rene Herrera, Athletics (Men's 3000m Steeplechase)
 5. Arnel Ferrera, Athletics (Men's Hammer Throw)
 6. Benjamin Tolentino Jr. and Jose Rodriguez, Rowing (Men's Double Sculls)
 7. Ryan Mendoza, Triathlon (Men's Duathlon)
 8. Maricela Torres, Athletics (Women's Long Jump)
 9. Emmanuel Reyes and Mara Rose, Dance Sport (Standard Quickstep)
 10. E. Reyes and M. Rose, Dance Sport (Standard Tango)
 11. Michaela Brizuela, Fencing (Women's Individual Epee)
 12. Emerson Segui, Fencing (Men's Individual Foil)
 13. Antonio Gabica and Marlon Manalo, Billiards and Snooker (Men's 9-Ball Doubles)
 14. Miguel Molina, Swimming (Men's 200m Individual Medley)
 15. B. Tolentino, Rowing (Men's Lightweight Singles Sculls)
 16. Ruben Amit, Billiards (Women's 9-ball Pool Singles)

SILVER
 1. E. Anyo, Carlos and J. Olofsson, Shooting (Men's Trap Team)
 2. J. De Guzman, Shooting (Women's Skeet)
 3. P. Recario, P. Bernardo and G. Tong, Shooting (Men's Skeet Team)
 4. M. Milagro, Athletics (Women's 400m Hurdles)
 5. J. Sermont, Athletics (Men's 500m)
 6. R. Villarito, Athletics (Women's Javelin Throw)
 7. E. Quiñones, Mt. Bike (Men's Cross Country)
 8. A. Amposta and N. Cordova, Rowing (Men's Lightweight Double Sculls)
 9. M. Valda, Wrestling (Men's Freestyle 84kg)
 10. M. Dique, Athletics (Men's 800m)
 11. H. Drendin, Fencing (Women's Individual Epee)
 12. G. Silverio, Wrestling (Women's Freestyle 55kg)
 13. A. Aragon, Wrestling (Men's Freestyle 74kg)
 14. A. Angara, Wrestling (Men's Freestyle 66kg)
 15. N. Cordova and M. Gabillino, Rowing (Men's Double Sculls)
 16. G. Villegas, Triathlon (Men's)
 17. A. Aquino, Triathlon (Women's)
 18. E. Reyes and M. Rose, Dance Sport (Stand Viennese Waltz)
 19. E. Reyes and M. Rose, Dance Sport (Stand Slow Fox-Trot)
 20. J. Melencio and D. Gerodias, Dance Sport (Latin American Jive)
 21. J. Melencio and D. Gerodias, Dance Sport (Lat Amer. Paso Doble)
 22. W. Mendoza, Fencing (Men's Individual Sabre)
 23. J. Walsh, Swimming (Men's 100m Butterfly)
 24. M. Mendoza, D. Coakley, K. Uy and J. Walsh, Swimming (Men's 4x100m Free Relay)

BRONZE
 1. E. Concepcion, Shooting (Men's 10m Air Rifle)
 2. Men's Hoop, Sepak Takraw
 3. Women's Hoop, Sepak
 4. E. Sunang, Athletics (Men's Shot Put)
 5. J. Delicano, Athletics (Men's Triple Jump)
 6. G. Surban, Mountain Bike (Men's Cross Country)
 7. M. Bibit, Mountain Bike (Women's Cross Country)
 8. M. Jambora, Wrestling (Women's Freestyle 48kg)
 9. M. Cristina Vergara, Wrestling (Women's Freestyle 51kg)
 10. C. Nillas and C. Pedraza, Rowing (Women's Lightweight Double Sculls)
 11. F. Taino and C. Mamill, Tennis (Men's Team)
 12. D. Dy and D. Matias, Tennis (Women's Team)
 13. A. Benedicto, Triathlon (Men's Duathlon)
 14. A. Dyasangco, Triathlon (Women's Duathlon)
 15. E. Reyes and M. Rose, Dance Sport (Standard Waltz)
 16. R. Raneo, Mercado and J. Melencio, Dance Sport (Latin American Cha Cha Cha)
 17. R. Canlas Jr., Fencing (Men's Individual Foil)
 18. J. Franquelli, Fencing (Women's Individual Sabre)
 19. A. Villarube, Athletics (Men's Decathlon)
 20. J. Bano, J. Nieras Jr., R. Tanan Jr. and E. Candevario, Athletics (Men's 4x400 Relay)
 21. K. Uy, Swimming (Men's 100m Free)
 22. J. Pangilinan, Swimming (Women's 100m Breast)
 23. N. Sison, Pangilinan, G. Gavidiano and E. Tolosa, Swimming (Women's 4x100m Free Relay)
 24. J. Buanavista, Athletics (Men's Marathon)
 25. J. Banayag, Athletics (Men's Marathon)
 26. J. Rodriguez, Rowing (Men's Single Sculls)
 27. A. Macasieb, Triathlon (Men's Event)
 28. M. Lucas, Triathlon (Men's Event)
 29. H. Diaz, Weightlifting (Women's 55 kg)
 30. M. Angana, Wrestling (Men's Freestyle 55 kg)
 31. D. Pakantac, Wushu (Men's Taijiquan-2 events combined)
 32. J. Hung, Wushu (Women's Taijiquan-2 events combined)
 33. R. Vicen, Boxing (Men's Pinlight 45kg)
 34. M. Bibit, Road Cycling (Women's Individual Time Trial)
 35. J. Melencio and D. Gerodias, Dance Sport (Lat. American Samba)
 36. C. Roland, Muay Thai (Flyweight 51 kg)
 37. R. Catalan, Wushu (Men's Under 52 kg)
 38. M. Mencundo and V. Nuestro, Fencing (Women's Individual Foil)

KIA DOES A NADAL! SCORES A STUNNING UPSET IN THE 2007 CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

FOR THE FIRST TIME A KOREAN BRAND, KIA, GARNERED THE MOST NUMBER OF AWARDS AT THE 4TH CAR OF THE YEAR (COTY) PHILIPPINES AWARDS PROGRAM WHICH WAS HELD AT THE ROCKWELL TENT IN MAKATI CITY LAST NOVEMBER 15, 2007 BY THE CAR AWARDS GROUP, INC. (CAGI) ORGANIZER OF COTY, UPSETTING OTHER POPULAR JAPANESE, AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN CAR BRANDS.

CATEGORY

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 COMPACT VAN & MPV AWARD — KIA CARENS 2.0L CRDI
 EXECUTIVE VAN & MPV AWARD — KIA CARNIVAL 2.9L CRDI (Short Wheelbase)

For the Executive Van & MPV Category	
CONTENDERS	WINNER
Isuzu Sportivo	
Kia Carnival 2.9LX CRDI (Short)	✓
Mitsubishi Fuzion GLS	
Toyota Innova	

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- FIVE-STAR SAFETY RATING by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration NHTSA (USA) 2006
- GOLD TOP SAFETY PICK by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety IIHS (USA) 2006

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Gritty Alcantara nails it at last

By Marc Anthony Reyes

POWERED BY SHEER GRIT, FRANCIS Casey Alcantara surged back from a set down to outlast Australian doubles partner James Duckworth, 6-7 (4), 6-3, 1-0 (retired), yesterday and capture the boys' singles title of the Phinma ITF junior tennis championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The top-seeded Alcantara shrugged off a 7-4 tiebreak loss in the first set to easily win the second as Duckworth tried to fight off exhaustion chasing the Filipino's nifty crosscourt shots.

The Australian eventually capitulated as cramps hit him in both legs with the

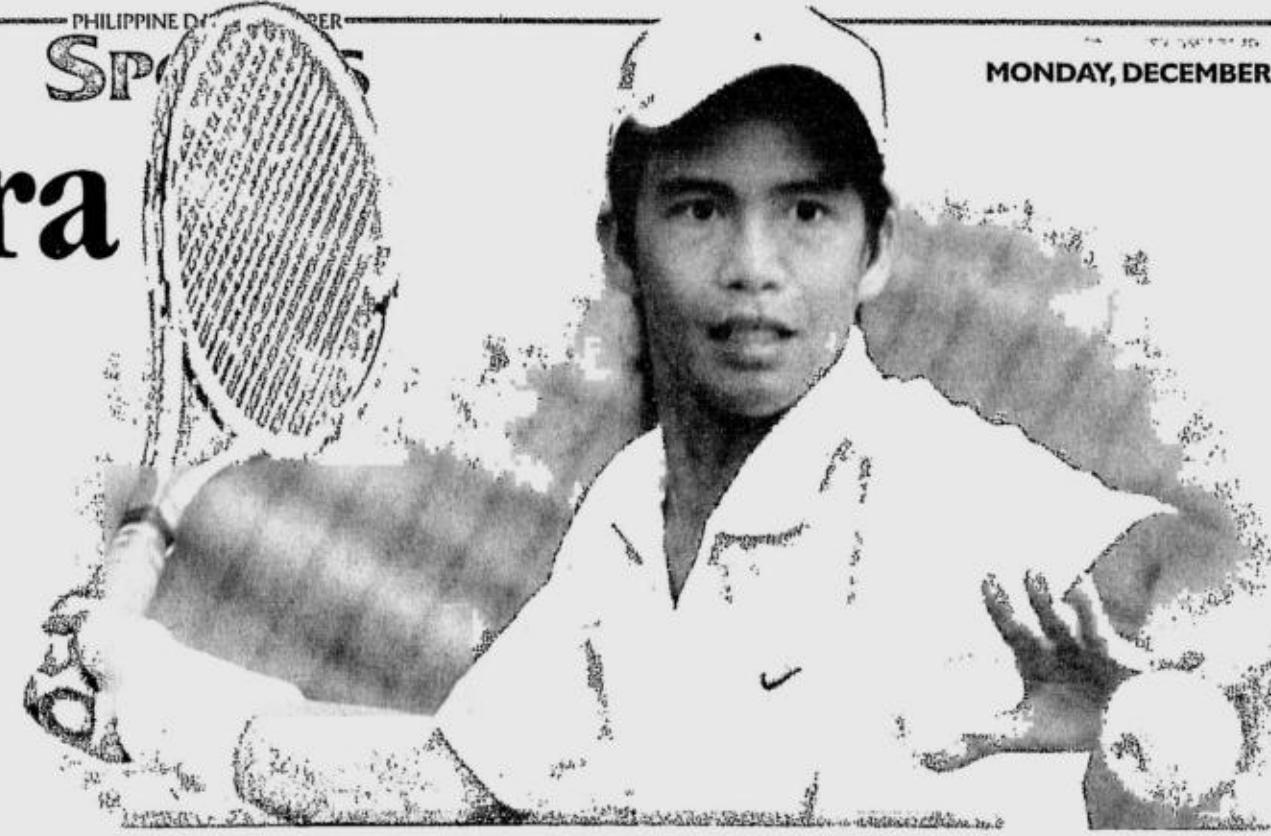
Filipino holding serve, 1-0, in the deciding set.

Alcantara showed how much he wanted a title victory that eluded him last week. The 16-year-old lost to Russian qualifier Artem Ilyushin in last week's final of the twin tournament.

"I guess I wanted (the championship) more," said Alcantara, who won another ITF junior event in Malaysia last month. "I wanted to win right here in our country."

Alcantara appeared headed for another heartbreak early on as Duckworth often caught him on the wrong foot.

"I didn't realize he was getting tired because he was still returning shots," said Alcantara of his opponent who still man-



FRANCIS Alcantara prepares to slam a forehand return.

RYAN LIM

aged to send the set to the tiebreak.

By the second set, it was obvious that the momentum had shifted to the Filipino's favor, and the match was halted as

Duckworth cramped up in both legs.

Japanese Maho Kowase overpowered Australia's Cody Morris, 6-3, 6-1, to annex the girls' singles title.

The Australians made up for their singles' defeats as Benjamin Wagland and Sean White won by walkover in the finals against Alcantara and Duckworth.

Everest conquerors lead Clark 'Discovery' adventure pack

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—MT. EVEREST conquerors Leo Oracion and Carina Dayondon, among the first Filipinos who reached the summit of the world's highest peak, led the pack of 80 athletes in the maiden run of the multi-sports endurance race Clark Discovery Quest here on Sunday.

Shortly after 9 a.m., during the eight-hour, non-stop challenge, Oracion and teammate Miguel Lopez sped past the lahar-filled Aduam section of the Sacobia River and were ahead by about 5 km of 29 teams and 15 individual participants.

But Philippine Air Force member Roel Ano and his brother, Jessie, later outdid Oracion and Lopez.

The Ano brothers ran through a bed of dry lahar and rappelled at the Sacobia Bridge ahead of all participants by past 10 a.m.

Dayondon, among the 20 women who competed, reached the bridge at 11:10 a.m., slithering through it like a pro before mounting herself on a bike toward the mountains of Bamban in Tarlac.

Every athlete, including three foreigners who reached that bridge, looked exhilarated but pushed on with the 53-km race through a mixed terrain of concrete, rolling hills, waterfalls, wild rivers and steep slopes.

Their ages range from 18 to 45, coming from various parts of the country. The event was a combina-



CARINA Dayondon, who has reached the summit of Mt. Everest, rappels down a hill near the Sacobia River.

TONETTE T. OREJAS/INQUIER CENTRAL LUZON

tion of running, trekking, marathon, biking, swimming and obstacle courses.

Warner Andrada, chief of the Department of Tourism product re-

search development office, said the quest was about adventure.

The event's sponsors were the Clark Development Corp. and the Fontana Leisure Park.

Member-guest golf tilt stakes new car

A LOT IN RIO DE ORO SUBDIVISION and an all-new Toyota Vios are up for grabs as hole-in-one prizes in the Fore by Four member-guest invitational tournament of the sprawling Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club on Dec. 14-15.

The Rio del Oro property and the Toyota Vios will be won for an ace on a designated hole in the two-day competition to be played at the four championship courses designed by

Nick Faldo, Isao Aoki, Andy Dye and Greg Norman.

Registration for the event is closed with all 300 slots already filled up. Today is the deadline for payment of entry fee which will entitle a member and his guest a premium LG phone each as a giveaway, a chance at winning a Toyota Vios and more than a million pesos worth of appliances and merchandise in the raffle.

This year's Fore by Four stands to become the biggest since the grand opening of the club with the use of all four courses and the overwhelming response by members.

In its last members monthly participated in by 244 players, Arnold Jumalon led the winners by topping Class A. Irineo Arbuen took Class B, Crisostomo Borillo ruled Class C and Adelio Domingo took Class D of the men's class.

Pinoy cooks win over foreign athletes' taste

By Musong R. Castillo

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—WHILE THE FILIPINO athletes have all but lost grip on the overall title in the 24th Southeast Asian Games, cooks from back home have won the hearts of the other nations at the Athletes' Village here.

The Filipino food section opened on Friday, and most of its clientele are athletes from the other 10 nations who have found the food to their liking and have made it a point to eat there every now and then.

The sad part? After the Philippine swimmers scooped up two gold medals on opening night, they arrived at the "restaurant" only to find that most of the food had been consumed by the foreign athletes.

Filipino-Canadian Mallory Dayot flew all the way from Canada to Bangkok, going 22 hours non-stop only to find out that she wouldn't be suiting up for the Philippine women's football team anymore.

Dayot would have been able to join the footballers in a playoff for the second Group A slot had

Vietnam played harder than it did in a 4-1 victory over Laos.

That victory meant that the Laotians booked No. 2 seeding by virtue of a superior goal difference against the RP women, who lost to Vietnam, 10-0.

The mess hall at the Main Press Center,

meanwhile, has been serving the same dishes over and over again. But those covering the beat have managed to make it work because of a wide variety of viands to choose from.

There are three counters in the MPC mess hall, the first serves traditional Thai food, the next caters to Halal clients and the third is a sort of westernized stall where fried chicken wings are the main fare.

And the best part about it is the price, as a reporter can fill himself up for just 20 baht (about P30) for a hearty meal.

Team Shamrock scores unexpected ring sweep

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS LEGEND KEN Shamrock knew his team would win, but did not expect to beat fellow champion Royce Gracie and his team so easily, so quickly.

Team Shamrock completed a sweep of its five matches against Team Gracie in the first part of the "Ring of Fire: World Team Challenge" at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ricco Rodriguez, Evan Dunham, Kyacey "Ice Cold" Uscola, Mike Whitehead and female champion Tonya Evinger dominated their respective rivals, sweeping to victories with a combination of raw power and techniques.

Rodriguez, easily one of the more popular mixed martial arts experts, defeated Kevin Fitial in 1:53 of the second of the three five-minute encounters in the one-day extravaganza put up by the organizing Fearless Fighting Productions and the Las Vegas-based Plat-

inum Fighting Productions.

The 30-year-old former wrestling champion from Staten Island, New York emerged a clear winner by tap out over Fitial to the delight of a big weekend crowd watching a world-class MMA event for the first time.

Dunham sparked Team Shamrock's fiery start by beating Cleber Luciano of Team Gracie by submission in the first match of the day.

Uscola, a 26-year-old native of Salt Lake City, Utah, followed it up with a majority decision win over Jorge Patino of Team Gracie and Whitehead won by Daniel Serafian of Team Gracie by unanimous decision.

In an all-female showdown, Evinger defeated Kathrine Andal in 1:14 of the second round.

"We knew we would win, but we did not expect to sweep them (Team Gracie)," said Shamrock.

Sabal, Tolentino rule 10 miler



CREENCIANO SABAL AND AILENE TOLENTINO pulled away in the stretch to rule the 19th Yakult 10 Miler yesterday at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex in Pasay City.

Sabal pulled away for good in the final 400 meters of the 16-kilometer foot race to claim his third 10 Miler crown with a time of 50 minutes and 27 seconds.

Tolentino completed the course in one hour, two minutes and seven seconds after tailing last year's winner Maricel Maquilan in the early part of the race.

Sabal and Tolentino each pocketed P7,000.

Without last year's winner Bernardo Desamito, Sabal was challenged by Armyman Juniel Languido, who tailed the champion right from the start.

"Medyo alalay lang ang takbo ko ngayon dahil katatakbo ko lang (I was not running at full speed because I just ran) last week," said Sabal, who topped a La Salle-organized foot race last week. "Nakabuntod lang si (I was being trailed by) Languido sa akin hanggang sa pagpasok dito sa (until I reached) CCP Dyan ko lang siya naikan (I broke away from there)."

Languido came in five seconds behind Sabal, who also topped the Milo Marathon last month.

Tolentino overtook Maquilan only in the final kilometer. Maquilan finished at 1:02:31.

SPORTSWATCH

'Rambulan' gets going

SAN JUAN COLISEUM'S BIGGEST cockfighting season opener for the 2007-08 season, billed as *Pamaskong Rambulan* 6-cock derby, gets going today.

SJC pit manager Renato Shio clarified that all Christmas gifts for the handlers and prizes in the raffle draw for paying patrons will not be deducted from the P3 million guaranteed prize.

Three more elimination rounds will be staged on Dec. 12, 15 and 17, where a bonus of P100,000 day prize awaits those who will score three points. For cockhouse reservations, call 7255369 and 7256563.

The champion of the three-day tournament, which will be a double elimination system, will win P15,000.

For details, call 046-4721447 and 0918-9139679. Listing deadline is on Dec. 13, 4 p.m. at the office of the mayor.

Race 1—(Tri)—French Rhythm (4), Getting Darker (1), Impulsive Decision (5) Race 2—(Penta/Or/Tri)—Euromax (4), Honor Rose (6), Fold Your Arms (2), Getting Better (9), Northstorm (5) Race 3—(Penta/Or/Tri)—Tiger Ratty (6), Madame Josefina (10), Devil Rising (9), Speed Attraction (5), Burst of Speed (4) Race 4—(Or/Tri)—King Anthony (8), Lucky Joe (1), My Special Moment (7), Easy

(2) Race 5—(Penta/Or/Tri)—Ray Moon Str (11), Honest To Goodness/Pirouette (10), Santalago (7), Leica N'Raven (7), Golden Touch Lover (6) Race 6—(Penta/Or/Tri)—Kampai (1), Friends For Never (4), Wowful (5), Sir Vey (6), Cheska's Real (9) Race 7—(Penta/Or/Tri)—Dynamic Jason (8), Pivotal/My Sheik (7), Dondon's Entry (1), Majestic Queen (4), Empire Lady (9) Race 8—(Super 6/Or/Tri)—Cheska Run (6), Goldsphere (7), Holy King (10), Sir Guguy (5), She's Coming (4), Yanong Rikit (11)

BY TOP CHOICE

SP

Mayweather retains WBC belt

LAS VEGAS—FLOYD MAYWEATHER Jr. remained unbeaten Saturday night and retained his claim to being the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world by stopping Ricky Hatton in the 10th round of a brawl that featured none of the fancy footwork he has shown in the ring and on reality TV.

Hatton wouldn't let Mayweather move, but it didn't matter as Mayweather used precision punches to wear down the challenger and retain his World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight title. Hatton kept trying to get inside and score points, but Mayweather had an answer for everything he did.

The end came after Mayweather landed a crushing left hook that dropped Hatton on his back in Mayweather's corner. Hatton got up at the count of eight, but Mayweather almost immediately got him on the ropes and landed another flurry of punches to the head.

Hatton went down almost on a delayed re-

action, while at the same time referee Joe Cortez moved in to stop the fight and Hatton's corner threw in the towel at 1:35 of the round.

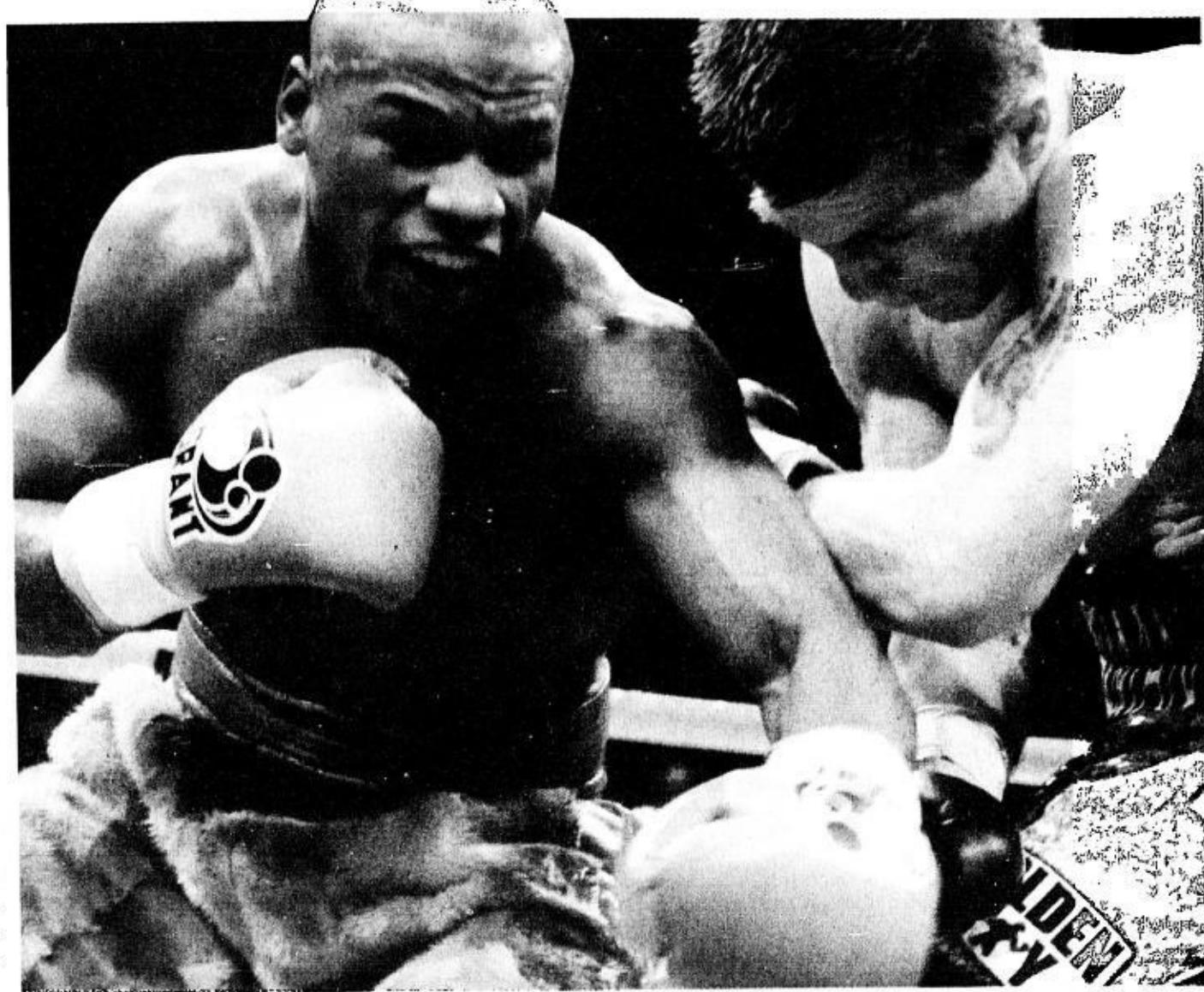
It was the first loss for Hatton, a brawler from Manchester, England, who did his best to do what no other fighter had ever done and break down Mayweather's defenses. It was clear from the early rounds, though, that Hatton would have trouble doing that. Mayweather was able to pile up points and seemed to be cruising for an easy decision win when he shot out the left hook that was the beginning of the end for Hatton.

"I knew it was going to be tough," Mayweather said. "That's why I didn't do anything halfway."

Mayweather (39-0) was ahead 89-81 on two ringside scorecards and 88-82 when he scored the thundering punches that both stopped Hatton and answered critics who said he was a boring fighter who fought defensively and rarely took any chances when it counted.

It was Mayweather's hometown, but Hatton's crowd also occupied the MGM Grand hotel arena. A brass band played in the upper deck, among thousands of British fans who packed the arena and needed little urging to stand up with beers in hand to sing "There's only one Ricky Hatton" to the tune of "Winter Wonderland."

Unfortunately for Hatton, their vocal support wasn't of much help. AP



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AP

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REUTERS

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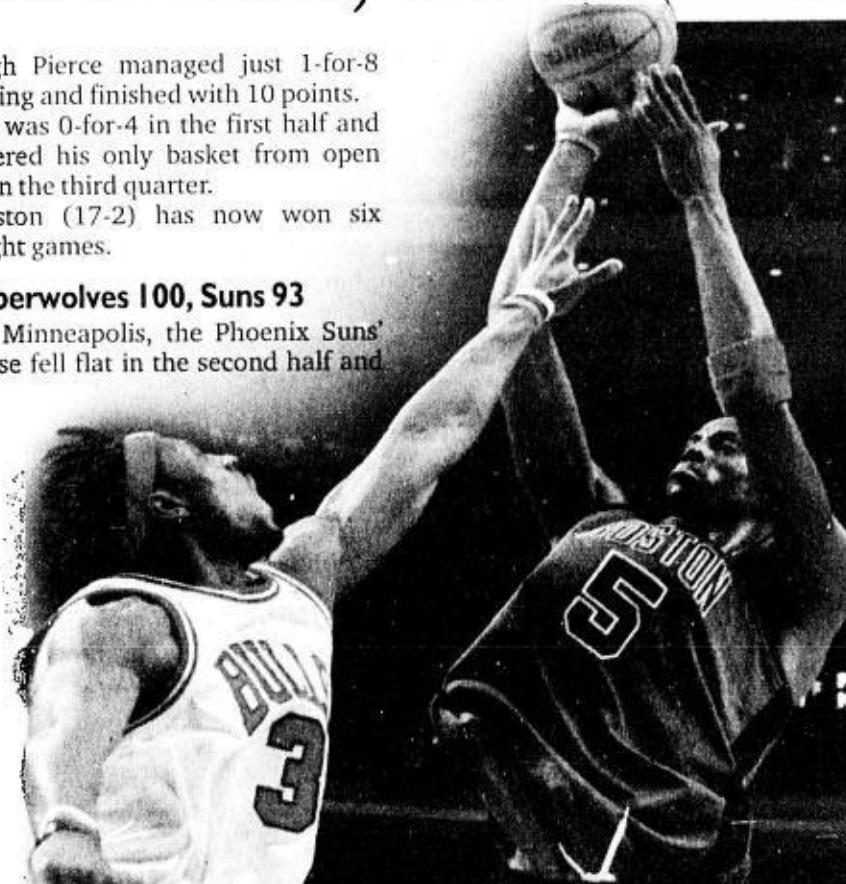
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AP



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AP

Mayweather retains WBC belt

LAS VEGAS—FLOYD MAYWEATHER Jr. remained unbeaten Saturday night and retained his claim to being the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world by stopping Ricky Hatton in the 10th round of a brawl that featured none of the fancy footwork he has shown in the ring and on reality TV.

Hatton wouldn't let Mayweather move, but it didn't matter as Mayweather used precision punches to wear down the challenger and retain his World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight title. Hatton kept trying to get inside and score points, but Mayweather had an answer for everything he did.

The end came after Mayweather landed a crushing left hook that dropped Hatton on his back in Mayweather's corner. Hatton got up at the count of eight, but Mayweather almost immediately got him on the ropes and landed another flurry of punches to the head.

Hatton went down almost on a delayed re-

action, while at the same time referee Joe Cortez moved in to stop the fight and Hatton's corner threw in the towel at 1:35 of the round.

It was the first loss for Hatton, a brawler from Manchester, England, who did his best to do what no other fighter had ever done and break down Mayweather's defenses. It was clear from the early rounds, though, that Hatton would have trouble doing that. Mayweather was able to pile up points and seemed to be cruising for an easy decision win when he shot out the left hook that was the beginning of the end for Hatton.

"I knew it was going to be tough," Mayweather said. "That's why I didn't do anything halfway."

Mayweather (39-0) was ahead 89-81 on two ringside scorecards and 88-82 when he scored the thundering punches that both stopped Hatton and answered critics who said he was a boring fighter who fought defensively and rarely took any chances when it counted.

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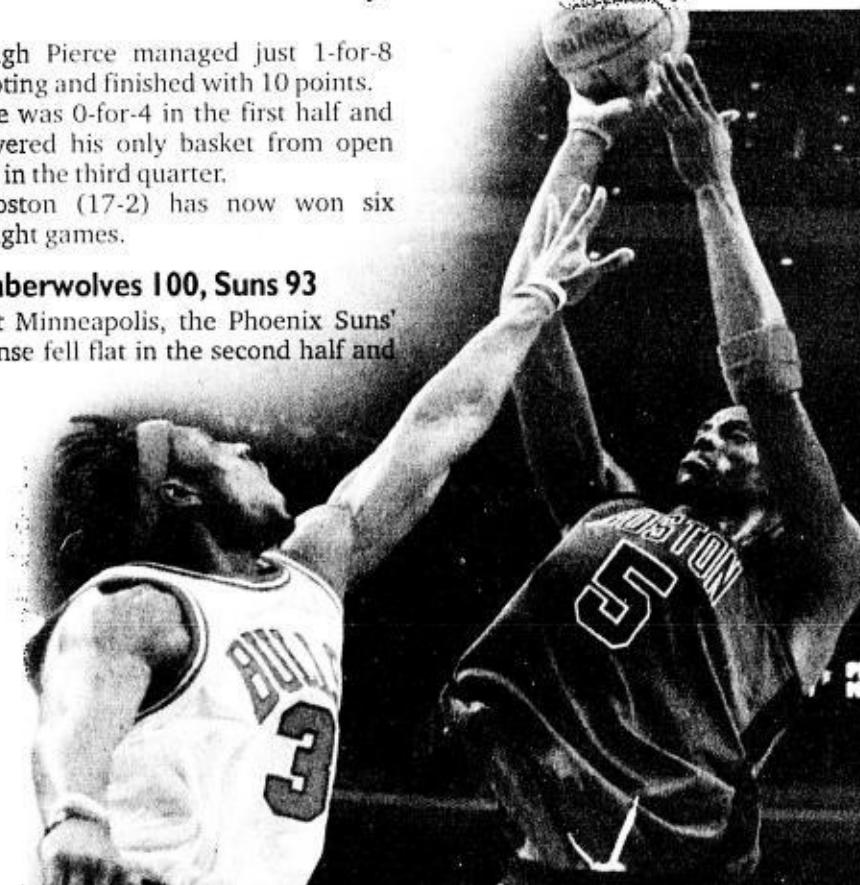
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Thai fails dope test, admits drug use

KORAT, THAILAND—A THAI FIELD hockey player became the first athlete to be expelled from the Southeast Asian Games after failing a drug test, games officials said Sunday.

The male player, whose name was not immediately released, tested positive for steroids in a pre-competition urine test, said Kanokphan Julakasem, head of the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT).

In addition to expulsion from the 11-nation games, the player will likely be banned from competition in his sport for two years.

Dr. Chataruporn na Nakon, deputy governor for sports promotion with the SAT, said a second Thai athlete, a female gymnast, also failed a drug test for an undisclosed substance one week before the beginning of the games. She will receive the same punishment as meted out to the hockey player, he said.

Jatuporn said the test on the hockey player showed traces of methyltestosterone, an illegal muscle-building drug.

The hockey player, like the gymnast, admitted taking the drug so a second urine sample test was unnecessary. AP

Asian golfers defend Cup over Int'l squad

PERTH, AUSTRALIA—SOUTH KOREANS Jee Young Lee, Seon Hwa Lee and In-Kyung Kim won early matches Sunday to give Asia an insurmountable lead en route to its second straight Lexus Cup title, a 15-9 victory over the International team.

After sweeping the opening alternate-shot session Friday, Asia took 3 1/2 of six points in best-ball play Saturday to take a seven-point lead into the Sunday singles matches, reduced from 12 to 11 when Norwegian star Suzann Pettersen was forced to withdraw during her match Saturday after aggravating a back injury.



LEE Jee-long pours champagne over Team Asia captain Se Ri Pak.

"Everybody knows now that the strength of women's golf in Asia is growing," Asia captain Se Ri Pak said. "There is a lot of pressure. I was very proud of them. Very proud of them ... I think we all bonded as a team. It doesn't matter that we come from different places ... Overall, this is a great team, great teamwork."

Pak, bothered by shoulder pain, also sat out Sunday, with the South Korean star and International captain Annika Sorenstam agreeing to halve the match.

With that match leaving the score 10-3, Asia needed only two points Sunday to retain the cup and 2 1/2 to win outright.

Sorenstam opened the singles with a 4-and-3 victory over Candie Kung 4 and 3, but Jee Young Lee countered with a 2-and-1 decision over Nicole Castrale in the second match. Angela Park then beat Asia's Amy Hung 3 and 1, and Kim secured at least a tie with a 2-and-1 victory over Stacy Prammana-sudh.

Seon Hwa Lee, the HSBC Women's World Match Play winner, put Asia over the top, beating U.S. Women's Open champion Cristie Kerr 3 and 2. Seon Hwa Lee is 6-0-0 in two appearances in the competition.

Sarah Lee also won for Asia, beating Australia's Nikki Campbell 3 and 1.

Asia successfully defend its title after beating the International team 12 1/2-11 1/2 last year in Singapore. AP

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AP

DFNN subsidiary acquires gaming firm for \$2.5M

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

A UNIT OF LISTED INFORMATION technology solutions provider DFNN Inc. said it has acquired 33 percent of Interactive Entertainment Technology Solutions (IEST) for \$2.5 million.

IEST is a local firm with management based in Singapore, according to sources familiar with the deal said. It is involved in event, sports and financial spread betting and has contracts to provide equipment and software to state gaming regulator Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

The acquisition was made through DFNN's Singapore-based subsidiary Pacific Gaming Investments Inc. (PGI), which bough 33.3 percent of IEST.

With the purchase, PGI obtained management control of IEST. DFNN also has an option to acquire the remaining 66.6 percent upon the listing of PGI on a stock exchange.

"PGI has also begun due diligence on a number of cash flow-

positive and operational slot machine arcades in Cambodia and the Philippines with the end goal of acquiring these arcades," said DFNN and PGI chair Ramon Garcia Jr.

Garcia said that wireless sports betting, particularly using mobile phones, has been growing at a phenomenal rate in Europe, while somewhat absent in the Asian market. DFNN, through PGI, will provide the gaming software expertise and marketing tie-ups in various Asian countries.

"Major mobile phone providers are at the forefront of this technological change," added Garcia. He said that in 2002, Orange, the wireless mobile phone operator in the United Kingdom, signed an agreement with ukbetting.com, an online bookmaker, to be the network's first wireless betting provider. ukbetting.com is now part of the Skybet.com.

Financial "spread betting" is another area that shows great promise for the company, Garcia said. By far the largest portion of wireless betting in the United Kingdom concerns financial instruments. "Investors" can use their cell phones to wager on the movement of a stock, currency, or commodity almost anywhere in the world. Wager amounts are small, but can offer large returns.

BALI, INDONESIA—THE STRUGGLE against climate change has come of age. Government officials and nongovernment stakeholders from all over the world have descended on this resort island since last week to discuss an issue that has gained the attention of heads of state and CEOs in a way that it never did before. Thanks perhaps to the Nobel Peace Prize awarded recently to the UN Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change and former US Vice President Al Gore, talking about climate change is now "in"—and doing something about it has become a serious part of the agenda of governments, corporations and communities alike.

Rising carbon

At the root of the problem is the continuously rising concentration of various "greenhouse gases" (GHGs), most notably carbon dioxide (CO₂), in the earth's atmosphere. In the same way that the walls of a greenhouse trap warmth inside, this greenhouse effect on the atmosphere has led to global warming, rising sea level, and shifting weather patterns. The biggest culprit is the emission of CO₂ from the burning of petroleum fuels in various human activities propelling our economies, from power generation to the running of motor vehicles and airplanes. The scientific evidence is rather compelling. Carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere has taken a steep upturn in the last few decades alone, and if unabated, will rise even more steeply. Meanwhile, a clear correlation has been established between CO₂ concentration and average temperatures in the atmosphere.

The obvious solution is to reduce these GHG-emitting activities around the world, especially where they happen the most. That is what countries agreed to do in Kyoto, Japan, 10 years ago, and clear targets were set to reduce GHG emissions to below 1990 levels by 2010. But the US, the runaway biggest source of GHGs, under a defiant President George W. Bush who declared that the American way of life (unsustainable as it is) is non-negotiable, refuses to affirm the Kyoto Protocol.

Command and control

One of the most notable outcomes of the climate change discussions in Kyoto is the now wide recognition that in mitigating environmentally damaging human activities, management by prices is superior to management by control. That is, traditional command-and-control approaches have been giving way to more efficient and more effective market-based approaches—also known as economic instruments—as the favored method for curtailing environmentally degrading economic activities.

In the traditional command-and-control approach, environmental standards are imposed on producers, in the form of maximum allowable discharges of known pollutants into the atmosphere or waterways. This could be done by imposing a common emission limit on all plants in a given industry, or imposing firm-specific or industry sector-specific limits, or imposing on all

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producers a standard technology that meets the limits. Exceeding the imposed limits would be punishable by closure and steep fines.

Inefficient, ineffective

The problem with the traditional command-and-control approach is that it limits the freedom of affected producers to choose their method of compliance with the standards. This tends to make compliance more expensive than it needs to be. As a punitive approach, it is thus not only costlier to enforce; it is also costlier to comply with. Furthermore, there is no incentive on the part of the producer to reduce pollution further below the set emission target. And where governance is weak (as in you-know-where), enforcement is likely to be selective (for a price, of course).

On the other hand, economic instruments minimize costs by maximizing flexibility of responses by producers. Two possible approaches may be employed here: a price approach, which puts a price on emissions (e.g. a carbon tax) and producers adjust the quantity (level of emissions); or a quantity approach, where government sets a maximum allowed quantity of pollution (e.g. CO₂ emissions), and the price of the "permit to pollute" is allowed to adjust according to supply and demand.

No juncture

The former raises the cost of the process/product, reducing demand for it and thereby naturally reducing emissions. But it also encourages polluters to seek ways to reduce emissions that cost less than the tax. The latter has the same effect as mandating a standard, with the difference that the allocated quantity target can be bought and sold. Polluters are free to seek the best way to comply with the target. And like the carbon tax, the price of the permit has the same effect of leading the polluter to seek cheaper ways to cut emissions or reduce atmospheric CO₂ levels, thereby lowering costs for all—and possibly yielding more cuts than what is needed to simply meet the target emission levels.

There are two downsides, however. A country imposing economic instruments may hurt its industrial competitiveness relative to other countries who don't. There is also the "carbon leakage" effect, where reducing CO₂ emissions in one country may only lead to increases elsewhere, as high-carbon production activities relocate where no controls are in place. But both effects would not be a problem if all countries agree to do the same thing.

That is why Bali should be far more than an exotic beach juncture for the government participants who are there now for the climate change conference.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

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2007 economic growth ...

From page B1

in the inflationary effects.

Based on the economic assumptions used in crafting the government's budget and fiscal program for the year, the peso was conservatively estimated to settle at an average of 47-49 to a dollar this year.

The official foreign exchange projection did not materialize, as the weakening dollar and the increase in remittances and investments led the peso to outperform most expectations. The peso, which appreciated against the dollar by about 11 percent in January to September from a year ago, recently touched the 41-to-\$1 territory.

Although the peso was helpful in tempering inflation, exporters have complained that the sharp rise of the local currency has made Philippine-made goods more expensive and therefore less competitive in the global market.

Exports grew by only 4.9 percent to \$37.2 billion in the first three quarters from a year ago, prompting economic officials to admit that the official exports growth target of 11 percent for the year was no longer attainable.

Stocks ...

From page B1

interest rates for up to five years and refinance their mortgages.

The plan is expected to help about 10 percent or 1.2 million US sub-prime borrowers.

"These borrowers can still afford to make their mortgage payments but may not be able to do so once their loans reprice upward later. The US Mortgage Bankers Association reported last week that foreclosures hit a record high in the third quarter," Vistan said.

Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

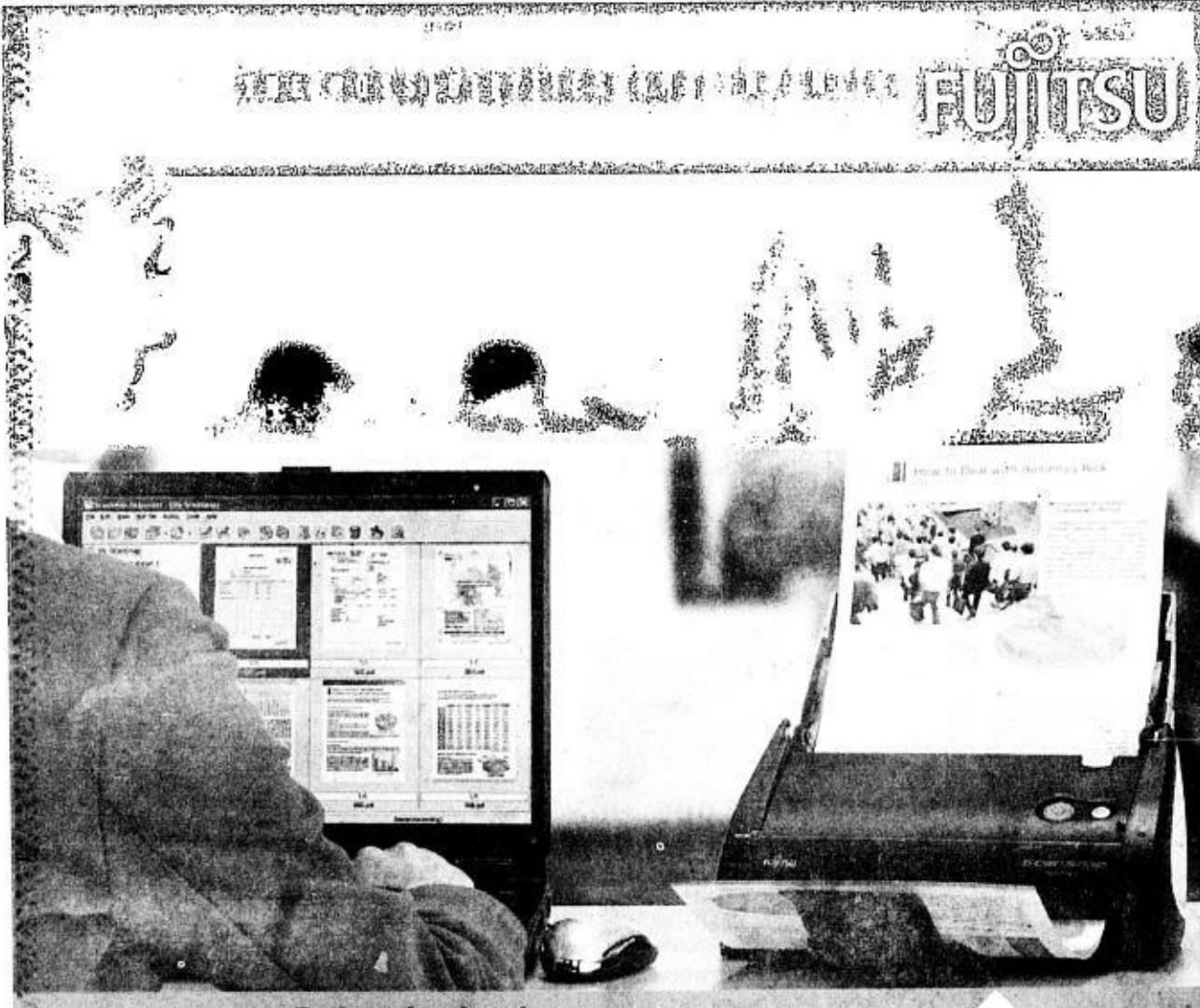
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Singapore bourse buys 20% equity stake in PDS

By Doris C. Dumla

SINGAPORE EXCHANGE LTD. (SGX), Asia Pacific's first demutualized stocks and derivatives exchange, has finalized its acquisition of a 20-percent stake in Philippine Dealing System Holdings Corp.

SGX has signed an agreement to subscribe to 1.5 million shares for P150 million or a par value of P100 each. The capital infusion will be paid in cash and completed by January 2008.

In formalizing its investment, SGX said in its own disclosure that it "took into account the growth potential, future business strategy

and asset value of PDS in arriving at the agreed consideration."

PDS, through its subsidiaries, provides the trading, settlement, depository services and market governance for the local currency government securities inter-dealer market. It likewise provides the trading platform for the interbank foreign exchange spot market and exercises the sole calculating agency function for the official interest rate and spot foreign exchange benchmarks.

Current PDS owners will also amend their existing shareholders' agreement to reflect the new investment of SGX.

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BSP OKs float of \$6-B worth of peso T-bonds

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Move seen to lower RP foreign obligations

By Doris C. Dumiao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas has approved the national government's plan to float peso-denominated treasury bonds worth as much as \$6 billion (P250 billion) starting early next year.

The T-bond float will match the planned protection scheme for holders of Republic of the Philippines foreign currency-denominated bonds.

This scheme involves the sale of "paired warrants," which will allow ROP investors to convert their holdings into treasury bonds in case of a debt default. The scheme is expected to attract Philippine banks, which are facing stiff capital charges on their overseas bond holdings with the implementation in the country of the Basel 2 capital adequacy framework.

Sources in the government said the central bank had given the Bureau of Treasury the leeway to issue these T-bonds on a staggered basis. The schedule and

volume will depend on the demand for the "paired warrants."

The T-bonds issuance is also in line with the government's strategy to reduce offshore obligations and shift to more domestic borrowings.

Based on BSP data, local banks had slashed their holdings of ROPs over the years to only 30 percent of the total offshore debt paper from as much as 60 percent in previous years.

An earlier International Monetary Fund study estimated the banking system's exposure in ROP bonds at 80 percent of the total government bonds. This prompted the IMF to call for diversification to reduce vulnerabilities and help spur investment growth in the country.

For the initial batch of the paired warrants to be sold, investors can exchange an equivalent face value of bonds maturing before September 2016 into peso-denominated 9.125-percent benchmark T-bonds maturing on Sept. 4, 2016.



PUNO, DEFENSOR JOIN GEOGRACE

Lawyer Renato V. Puno (right) and former Natural Resources Secretary Michael Defensor (left) join the Geograce group as it embarks on an aggressive expansion program. Puno was elected chair of mining firm Geograce Resources Phils. Inc. (Geograce) while Defensor was named chair of Geograce Management Hong Kong, which was tapped by Geograce to handle specialized management and technical services.

Landbank to secure \$1.12B in new loans next year for priority sectors

By Amy R. Remo

STATE-OWNED LAND BANK OF the Philippines said it would seek \$1.12 billion worth of funds, both official development assistance and commercial loans, for lending to its priority sectors.

Landbank is working on a \$567-million financing from bilateral partners and multilateral lending institutions for lending to farmers and fisherfolk, and to agribusiness, agri-infrastructure and environment projects.

Portion of the amount will also be used for various economic activities of local governments, cooperatives, small and medium enterprises and microenterprises, which are among the bank's development partners.

According to the bank, the \$567-million financing will include an additional loan of EUR 4.74 million for the KFW-LGU Investment Program (LIP).

Started in 2006, Landbank's LIP aims to improve its capacity

to provide long-term credits to local government units to contribute to the quantitative and qualitative improvement of local infrastructure.

The total program loan has reached EUR 15 million, which came from the German government through the KfW Development Bank.

Landbank said the infusion would bring the total LIP funds to EUR 19.74 million.

The bank has started implementing the second phase of the LIP which was estimated to cost EUR 7 million.

"We hope to make these programs available in 2008 to improve the LGUs' access to and handling of investment loans for development financing," said Landbank president and CEO Gilda E. Pico.

Another financing package in the pipeline is the \$150-million support program for agri-enterprise development from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

This is expected to benefit farmers and fisherfolk cooperatives, SMEs and large agri-business projects starting next year.

Landbank said it was also in discussion with KfW and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for a community-based forest and mangrove management project in Panay and Negros Islands.

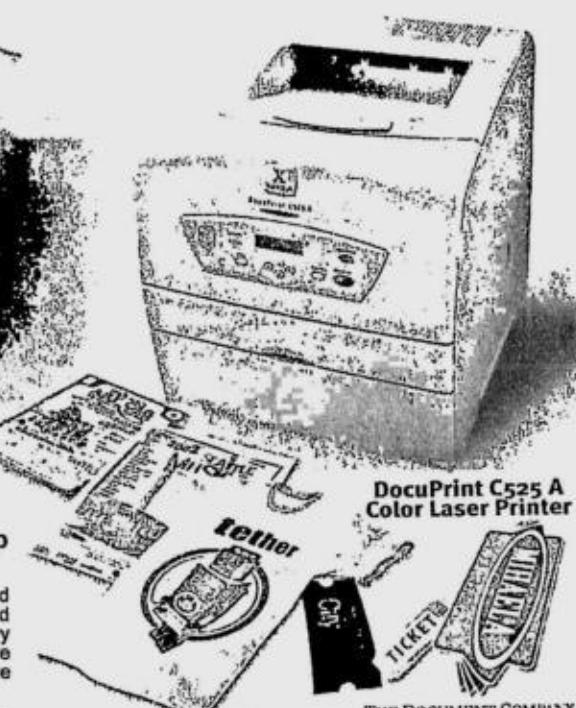
In the meantime, the bank said it was working on another \$400 million worth of loans from JBIC (non-ODA), China Development Bank and the European Investment Bank.

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BUSINESS

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Ambuklao, Binga plants up for rehab

By Abigail L. Ho

SN ABOITIZ POWER HYDRO INC. (SNAP Hydro), which won the bidding for the 175-megawatt (MW) Ambuklao-Binga hydropower plant package, plans to rehabilitate the facilities to make them run more efficiently and produce more power.

SNAP president Luis Miguel Aboitiz said in an interview that the consortium composed of Manila-Oslo Renewable Enterprise Inc. and SN Power Holding Singapore Pte Ltd. planned to "fix up" the Ambuklao plant to make it run again and produce at least 65 MW of power.

"The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) wants us to fix it. There's no firm investment figure yet, but it'll be cheaper than putting up a new plant since the storehouse is already there. We just need to buy some mechanical equipment and do some construction," he said.

Ambuklao's three 25-MW generating units have not been operating since 2000.

As for the 100-MW Binga plant, Aboitiz said the SNAP Hydro consor-

tium planned to expand it by putting in new turbines that would enable the plant to run more efficiently.

"We can no longer put additional turbines, but what we can do is put new turbines to make the plant more efficient and produce more electricity," he explained.

With four 25-MW generators, the Binga plant can operate as a baseload plant if there is a lot of water or a "peaking" plant when the water level is low.

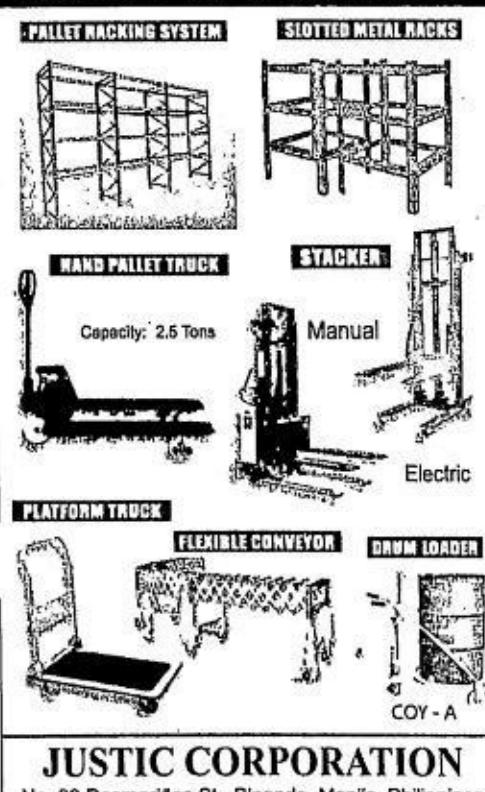
As for financing for the group's purchase of the Ambuklao-Binga complex, he said talks with financial institutions would not start until January, but the consortium was already preparing for negotiations.

He said the group planned to initially take advantage of PSALM's deferred payment scheme for 60 percent of the bid price for the plant package.

"But we'll pay that as soon as we get refinancing. We'll do project financing, like what we did with the 360-MW Magat hydropower facility," Aboitiz Power Corp. president and chief executive Erramon Aboitiz earlier said, adding that the same lenders could be

part of the project financing for the Ambuklao-Binga plants.

SNAP Hydro has 540 days from the award of the sale contract to remit 40 percent of the bid price to PSALM. The balance would be payable over seven years.

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ASIAN HOSPITAL, INC.

Public Disclosure

Asian Hospital, Inc. (AHI) is a private hospital with tertiary care facilities in the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, within the southern Luzon corridor of metropolitan Manila. AHI is considering enhancing its operations and expanding its inpatient and outpatient facilities to better serve the local population (the Project). At the same time, AHI is contemplating to normalize its debt structure and it is currently in discussions with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), an existing lender to AHI, to potentially act as the lead lender for the Project. In addition, AHI would draw on equity funding and internal cash reserves to contribute to Project expenditures.

AHI has implemented a management system to manage Environmental, Social, Health and Safety (ESHS) performance of the company, as well as Human Resources activities. AHI maintains an ongoing focus on compliance with GOP regulations, and has reviewed these programs and systems with the IFC.

As agreed with the IFC, AHI has made more details publicly available in reports on the Project and ESHS topics, which can be accessed at www.asianhospital.com in the Hospital News box, or as posted in the main lobby of the AHI hospital facility.



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HARI AWARDS MOST OUTSTANDING DEALERS FOR 2007

Notwithstanding the holiday chill, Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), Hyundai's official distributor in the Philippines, launched a sizzling island-themed festivity to honor its most outstanding dealers during the 2007 HARI Dealer of the Year Awards held recently at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza. HARI pulled out all the stops by dishing out over 40 awards, aggressively spanning the spirit of victory among the 31-strong HARI dealer network. Key executives and officers from Hyundai dealers hailing from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao attended in full force to show their support of the prestigious event, which hallmark HARI's utmost appreciation of its partner dealers and emphasized Hyundai's culture of excellence. HARI's top brass headed by Chairman Emeritus Richard Lee, Chairman Edward Go, HARI President and Chief Executive Officer Conrad Marty, and HARI EVP and Chief Operating Officer Ma. Fe Perez-Agudo, also graced the occasion and expressed enthusiasm towards the collective success of all dealerships.

Firing up the night

A heart-pumping opening number kicked off the festivities and warmed up the audience for an exciting program ahead. Master of ceremonies HARI Dealer Development Manager Popo Soriano and the lovely Cristy de Guzman or DJ Cristy to fans of Monster Radio, eagerly welcomed the winning dealers as they were called on stage to receive their awards. First recognized were the new dealers who have duly qualified as Hyundai Elite dealers; among them were Hyundai Bacolod, Hyundai Cagayan de Oro, Hyundai Dagupan, Hyundai Global City and Hyundai Iloilo. This new set of dealers has brought the total of accredited Hyundai Elite to 16, further enhancing HARI's standing as the DEP capital of the Hyundai global community.

Individual Achievement Awards in areas of Parts, After-Sales Service, and Vehicle Sales Operations came next. For Parts, Jason N. Floresca of Hyundai Laguna was named the 2007 Parts Personnel of the Year Champion, while Sena Britta Vilanueva of Hyundai Pampanga earned First Place in the Parts Managers Skills Development Training.

Ma. Erna R. Santoalla of Hyundai EDSA, Chandy C. Quila of Hyundai EDSA, and Meriam D. Abulencia of Hyundai Cebu were declared Service Advisor of the Year, Technician of the Year, and Warranty Administrator of the Year, respectively.

rounding up the Individual Achievement Awards for After-Sales Operations.

Expert technicians Reggie Ramos of Hyundai Dagupan and Gilbert Durna of Hyundai Balintawak were accorded with special recognition for besting over 72 Hyundai technicians from 45 countries with an overall ranking of Excellent Skills in the recent 7th Hyundai World Skills Olympics held in Chonan, South Korea.

For Vehicle Sales, Awards of Excellence for Vehicle Sales Management for Provincial and Metro Manila categories were given to Mr. Raymundo Gotengco of Hyundai E. Rodriguez and Mr. Lowell Bellarmino of Hyundai Cebu, while Grace Redonas Marquez of Hyundai E. Rodriguez and Monaliza Aboujafari of Hyundai Pampanga were hailed Sales Consultants of the Year for Metro Manila and Provincial categories.

Blazing the trail of victory

As the audience anticipated the grand finale of the night's ceremonies, special presentations provided entertaining relief for the audience and sustained the event's momentum.

Major Departmental Awards of Excellence in areas of Parts, After-Sales Service, and Vehicle Sales Operations further edged the audience in sheer excitement. For the Parts Department, the Award of Excellence for being Best in Parts Wholesale Performance was accorded to Hyundai Cebu representing the Provincial category and to Hyundai E. Rodriguez for the Metro Manila category.

As the awarding ceremonies continued, it was evident that Hyundai Cebu was geared to drive its way to victory, as it bagged the top Award of Excellence in Parts Operations and After-Sales Operations, a special award for Best in Vehicle Sales Wholesale Performance, Provincial category, and the overall champion for Vehicle Sales Performance and Sales Operations Management.

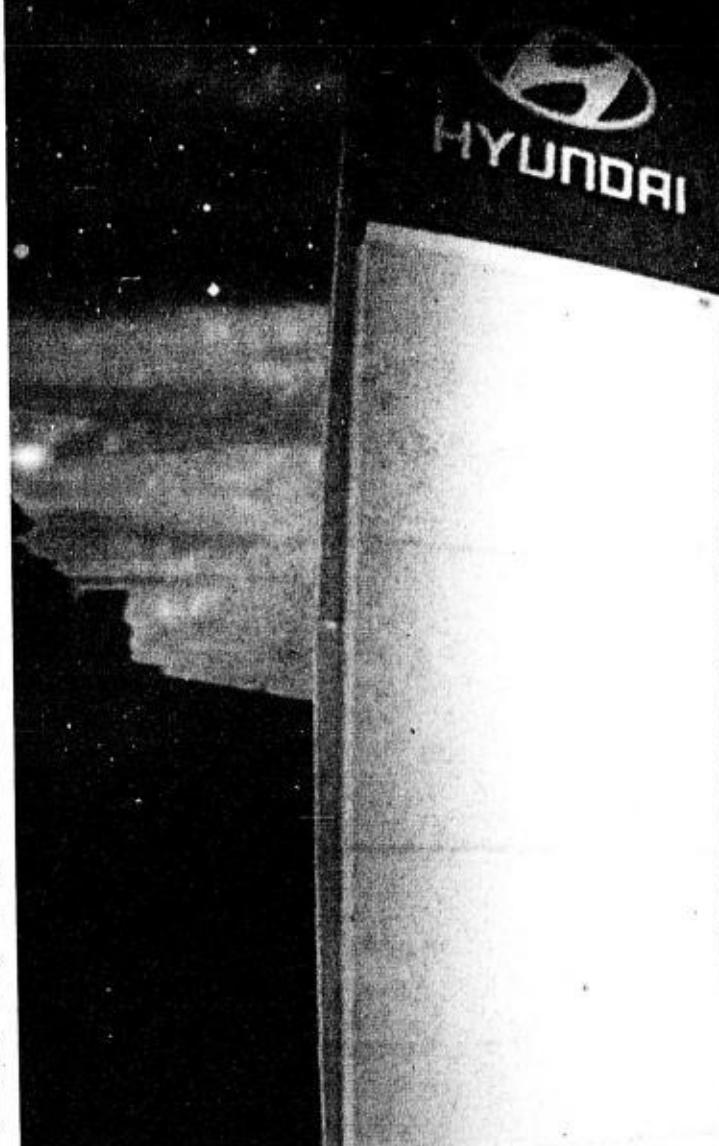
Closely following Hyundai Cebu's winning streak was Hyundai E. Rodriguez, which was awarded Best in Vehicle Sales Wholesale Performance for the Metro Manila category, while Hyundai Alabang was named Best in Fleet Sales Management, and Hyundai Otis received the distinction of Best in Starex PRO Series Sales for selling the most number of Hyundai Starex PRO vehicles.

Hyundai Cebu: 2007 Dealer of the Year

With its exceptional overall performance in dealership operations evidenced by its sweep of major departmental awards Hyundai Cebu was honored the coveted 2007 Dealer of the Year award. During his victory address, Mr. Edward Onglatco, President of Hyundai Cebu, expressed his sincerest gratitude over HARI's continued support of the dealership network and for recognizing Hyundai Cebu's relentless efforts to further the success of the Hyundai brand in the Philippines. Revelries soon followed after, brimming not only with fun and good company, but with the sweet taste of success and renewed optimism for the year ahead.



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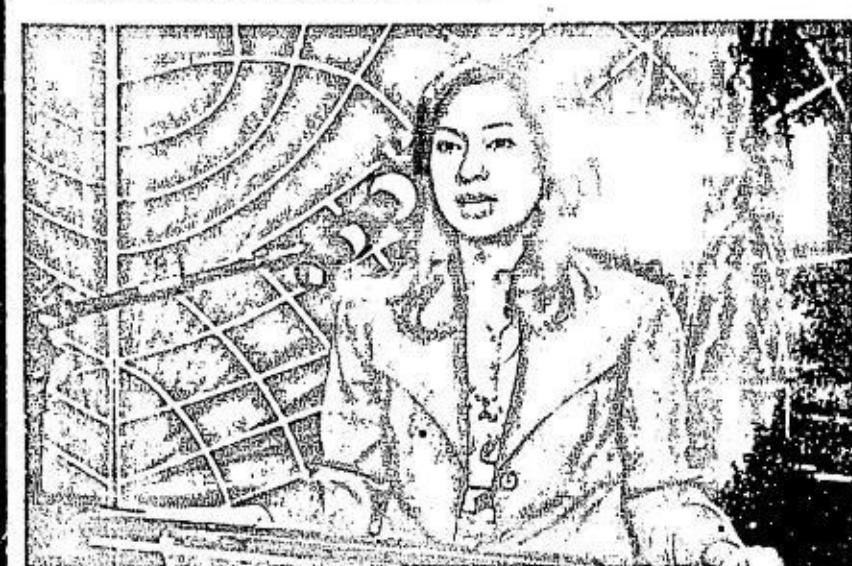
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Fiery performances pump up the night's festivities



New batch of Hyundai Elite dealers grace the stage during the Dealer of the Year Awards



Ma. Fe Perez-Agudo, HARI EVP and Chief Operating Officer, congratulates dealers for the resounding success of the HARI dealer network



Mr. Edward G. Onglatco, President of Hyundai Cebu, in confident form during his victory address



Hyundai Cebu is declared 2007 Dealer of the Year

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Merry Christmas from us at Hyundai.

Ortigas considering IPO to bankroll further growth

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

ORTIGAS AND CO. LTD PARTNERSHIP, one of the country's biggest land developers, is studying the possibility of conducting an initial public offering to finance further growth.

"We're studying a number of options. An IPO is just one option to allow investors to participate in the company's growth," Ortigas and Co. chief operating officer Rex Drilon II said in an interview.

Another option being considered is the conversion of Ortigas and Co. from a partnership—where two or more persons agree to pool talent and money and share profits or losses—into a corporation—a legal entity that can own assets, incur liabilities and issue shares of stock.

"Most of the big partnerships in the 1900s, the Ayalas, the Sorianos, the Roxases have gone public. It is logical for the family (Ortigases) to think in that direction. In the last 76 years, the family has demonstrated a keen sense of timing. They have a good feel of when is the right time for everything," Drilon said.

In the next 10 years, the Ortigas group is looking to spend roughly P30 billion on the development of about a fourth of the company's land bank in Metro Manila spanning 58 hectares.

Over the past 76 years, Ortigas and Co. has been responsible for several upscale residential and commercial developments, which include Greenhills subdivisions, Greenhills Shopping Center, Ortigas Center, Valle Verde subdivisions, Greenmeadows and most recently, the Tiendesitas shopping complex at Frontera Verde.

It traces its roots to the Hacienda de Mandaloyon spanning 4,033 hectares, which originally formed part of the estate holdings of the Augustinian Order.



Currencies

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.683480	1.000000	41.8920
Japan	Yen	0.006144	0.008989	0.3766
United Kingdom	Pound	1.385893	2.027700	84.9444
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.087699	0.128312	5.3752
Switzerland	Franc	0.604796	0.884877	37.0693
Canada	Dollar	0.678123	0.992162	41.5637
Singapore	Dollar	0.473587	0.692905	29.0272
Australia	Dollar	0.595730	0.871612	36.5136
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.822566	2.666596	111.7090
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.182724	0.267344	11.1996
Brunei	Dollar	0.471951	0.690512	28.9269
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000074	0.000108	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.022669	0.033167	1.3894
UAE	Dirham	0.186103	0.272287	11.4066
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.463100	61.2922
Korea	Won	0.000742	0.001085	0.0455
China	Yuan**	0.092244	0.134962	5.6538
Denmark	Kroner	0.134074	0.196163	8.2177
India	Rupee	0.017352	0.025387	1.0635
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.204176	0.298730	12.5144
New Zealand	Dollar	0.527703	0.772082	32.3441
Sweden	Kroner	0.106704	0.156118	6.5401
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.021167	0.030969	1.2974

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Dec. 6, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian time closing rate as of Dec. 6, 2007

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Makati Sports Club A/B*	250,000	190,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	200,000	
Metropolitan Club A/B*	160,000	100,000
Mimosa C1/C2/C3**	220,000/550,000**	150,000/400,000/500,000**
Mt. Makarayat A	180,000	
Orchard A/B/C**	170,000/250,000/380,000**	120,000*
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	120,000
Riviera Golf A/B/C**	150,000/250,000**	120,000/130,000**
Rockwell Leisure Club	350,000	
Roxas Tepayay CC	65,000	
Sherwood A/B/C**	70,000/100,000*	100,000*
Splendido Taal	200,000	
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	2,100,000/2,500,000*	1,600,000
The Palms Country Club	350,000	320,000
Tagaytay Country Club		250,000
Tagaytay Highlands	680,000	
Tagaytay Midlands	670,000	
Valley Golf	250,000	200,000
Valle Verde Ind.	100,000	70,000
Wack Wack Golf	Pts. Call	10,000

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(0917)3287789 Website: www.gwclubshares.com

Email: gashare@mozz.com Website: www.ggclubshares.com



Announcement:
We are now located at:
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377 Ben. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel No.: 890-GOLF (4653)* 0917-8043072 ; Fax no. 895-1831
Operation as of December 10, 2007

CLUB SELLER BUYER

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,100,000	1,000,000
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,200,000	
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	580,000	550,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	260,000
CANLUBANG	470,000	430,000
CAPITOL HILLS	40,000	
CERRITO COUNTRY CLUB	2,100,000	
CELESTE SPORTS CLUB	80,000	
CLUB FILIPINO	120,000	90,000
EAGLERIDGE "A"	160,000	140,000
EAGLERIDGE "B"	250,000	200,000
EAGLERIDGE "C"	350,000	300,000
FOREST HILLS "A"	100,000	80,000
LUISITA GOLF "A"	300,000	250,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	200,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	300,000	220,000
MANILA GOLF (CORP.)	23,000,000	20,000,000
MANILA GOLF (IND.)	21,000,000	19,000,000
MANILA POLO	5,000,000	4,700,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	300,000	250,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	650,000	630,000
MANILA YACHT CLUB	200,000	150,000
MIMOSA ANDI	200,000	
MR. MALAYAYAT GOLD "A"	140,000	
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	150,000	
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	270,000	
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	330,000	
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB "C"	150,000	130,000
THE PALMS COUNTRY CLUB	340,000	300,000
VALLE VERDE (IND.)	90,000	75,000
VALLEY GOLF	240,000	200,000
WACK-WACK GOLF CLUB	10,000,000	9,500,000
STA. ELENA "A"	1,000,000	1,700,000
STA. ELENA "B"	1,900,000	
TAGAYTAY COUNTRY CLUB	300,000	290,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	670,000	630,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	650,000	630,000
VALLEY	250,000	
Wack Wack Golf	Pts. Call	10,000

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ECS ELITEGROUP

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of December 7, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS							
17.5	6.8	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.6	9	8.6	8.8	259,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	60.5	62.5	60.5	62	1,216,900
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippines Islands	64.5	65.5	64.5	65	4,919,200
74.8	54	China Banking Corp.	670	670	665	665	4,440
23.5	14	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23			

OBITUARIES

B10

The Rivilla Family

Lulu Cojuangco Rivilla

Bambi & Helen; Beewie & Lynn; Nettie & Gigi;
Inday & Mike; Suey & Jake; Dicky & Cathy;

Dors & Anna

Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren

Sister: Marta R. Kramer

Sister-in-law: Imelda O. Cojuangco

Nephews & nieces

request prayers for the eternal repose of

Luis Tirso Mijares Rivilla

who peacefully joined our Creator
on the 6th of December, 2007 at the age of 81.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 1 of the
Mortuary & Crematory of The Heritage Park,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Masses are held daily at 8:00pm.

Necrological Mass will be held on the 11th
of December, 2007 at 9:30am at the
Sanctuario De San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati.
Cremation service follows.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that
donations be made to Marian Missionaries of the Holy
Cross or Alay Sa Bansa Association, Inc.

Mortuary and Crematory

THE HERITAGE PARK

FORT BONIFACIO

People, Events & Products

Japanese show highlights RP

PHILIPPINE TOURISM WILL SOON take the limelight in a popular TV show being broadcast by 14 stations in metropolitan areas in Japan.

The program, titled "King's Brunch" is topbilled by twin actors Shota and Keita, who have just concluded a four-day location shoot in various tourism destinations in the Philippines.

Shota and Keita are especially popular among young Japanese ladies who comprise the bulk of "King's Brunch" viewership.

The program will have a full 20-minute feature on the Philippines' marine sports, chi spa, Bohol's Loboc river cruise and Chocolate Hills, Cebu's churches and shopping malls, and the Manila Bay sunset, among others.

"This special feature on the Philippines, scheduled for airing on Dec. 15, enhances our brand image and market presence in Japan," said Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano.

"Through this program, we will be able to communicate our brand essence in a multi-sensory and dynamic triple play (voice, video and data) to a broad-based, multi-segment market all at the same time and at a longer period of media exposure, thus helping us to leave a lasting brand footprint on our target market's consciousness. This is especially so since the feature on the Philippines will be

uploaded on the program's website soon after broadcasting in order to allow the TV audiences to check out the information again," Durano explained.

A lifestyle information TV program, "Kings Brunch" has been on the air for more than 10 years now. It features onsite information about gourmet, shopping, beauty, movies, entertainment and interior design, with travel being a particularly important topic.

The program is so popular with urban working ladies that the products and services introduced during the show often end up getting sold out, according to Director Benito Bengzon Jr., head of the Department of Tourism's Team Japan.

"The TV program gives us the opportunity to introduce new attractions in our 'focus areas' that will give our Philippine tourism brand a new vigor and vitality, especially as we further widen our market coverage to include the Japanese ladies and the working youth among our primary targets," Bengzon said.

This latest promotional thrust is anchored on the "Wellness from the Inside Out" campaign, which has evolved from the "Premium Resort Island Philippines" program that jumpstarted the country's highly successful Japan-wide marketing blitz in 2004.

"The strategy is to widen the

market's perception of the 'Premium Resort Islands Philippines' from a mono-dimensional (beach destination) to multi-dimensional tourism hub offering health and wellness, shopping, island hopping, sports, and many other activities," Durano explained.

"In fact, our 'Wellness from the Inside Out' campaign in Japan turned out to be the pilot model or test case for our ongoing "Islands of Wellness" cross-regional marketing program," Durano pointed out.

Aside from advertising, also supporting these promotional stunts are events, field, consumer and industry-focused marketing, including familiarization trips for media outfits catering to various segments of the 17.4-million Japanese outbound market.

Durano said careful and methodical strategic planning and implementation formed the backbone of these series of marketing campaigns, which sustained the yearly increases in Japanese arrivals beginning in 2004 when it surpassed 400,000 for the first time in 20 years.

Japanese arrivals continue to contribute significantly to the country's ever-increasing volume of foreign tourists—from 2.29 million in 2004 and 2.62 million in 2005 to 2.84 million in 2006 and expectedly over 3 million this year.

THE OVERSEAS WORKERS Welfare Administration (OWWA) will launch the "Pamaskong Salubong sa OFW's" today, 10 December 2007, 3 P.M. at Gate 16, Terminal 1, Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

Opening Remarks will be made by Administrator Marianito D. Roque. Notable guests include the Hon. Chairman of the House Committee on Overseas Affairs Manuel "Way" Kurat" Zamora, Department of

Labor and Employment (DOLE) Arturo Brion and Philippine Overseas Employment Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz. NAIA General Manager Alfonso Cusi will make the closing remarks.

OWWA's partners in the "Pamaskong Salubong sa OFW's" are Globe Telecoms, Landbank of the Philippines, Microsoft, Duty Free, Development Bank of the Philippines and Sun Life Financial.

CLASSIFIEDS

MONDAY,
DECEMBER 10, 2007

radioaccess

POEA ACCREDITATION NO. 10116938
United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,
QatarFor immediate Hiring
& Deployment
mid-DECEMBER or
mid-JANUARY 2008SERVICE (for ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL works, or
both) MAINTENANCE
TECHNICIANS

GENERAL QUALIFICATION/REQUIREMENTS & OTHER VITAL INFORMATION

- Hands on (mechanical or electrical) working experiences are a must. (this is not an office job)
- Male, 25 ~ 45 years old ~ Preferably holder of Professional Drivers License (but not necessarily required) ~ can basically read schematic (mechanical or electrical) drawings
- MECHANICAL/ELECTRICAL graduates (preferably vocational, or baccalaureate), MUST be holders of any vocational (automotive/light or heavy) mechanical/electrical) or training school, college or university certificates or diplomas (authenticated or attested by proper local authority or respective embassies/consulates offices of UAE/KSA/QATAR)
- STARTING PAY RATE: basic salary of 4,000.00 (AED/SAR/QAR) per month (approximately US\$1,150.00) + overtime pay + housing allowance (except in K.S.A. where housing is provided for FREE)
- FREE: Health & Life Insurance (ADB + Life), Air Ticket (w/30-days leave after 1-year of continued & uninterrupted employment)
- Bonuses - after three (3)-months (NOTE: at employer's discretion)

DUTIES & KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

INSPECTION

- Carry out I.D.I (Pre-Delivery Inspection) of machines at depot, or on-site.
- Ensure that every machine inspected conforms to the regulations affecting its use
- Notify appropriate supervisor/manager of any defective or unsafe equipment



PLANNED MAINTENANCE

- Carry out Scheduling of Maintenance (electrical or mechanical) in accordance with company policy, manufacturers' recommendations and within agreed timescales
- Ensure that there is no deficiency or defect likely to affect the safe working of any machine
- Maintain the appearance of fleet according to corporate standards



REPAIR

- Inspect and repair machines at depot or on-site (mechanically or electrically) as required to ensure conformance with manufacturers' specification and company policy

CUSTOMER CARE

- Maintain high levels of personal appearance uniform and personal protection
- Act as an ambassador for the company, providing a high standard of customer care and being polite at all times
- Relay appropriate customer queries to depot staff as required
- Handover machines to customers and familiarize customers with machine operation in accordance with company procedures



ADMINISTRATION

- Accurately complete any and all relevant paperwork including engineer's report, off-hire/pre-delivery inspection and service sheets

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HUNGER MITIGATION PROGRAM

DA urges suppliers to bring produce to terminals

By Amy R. Remo

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY Arthur C. Yap has asked food suppliers to bring their produce directly to barangay food terminals and *bagsakan* centers to help bring down prices of basic commodities.

At the same time, Yap directed the Department of Agriculture's Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service to help the food suppliers transport their goods more efficiently.

"Making affordably priced produce accessible to low-income families forms part of the hunger mitigation program of our government," Yap said during his visit to the Commonwealth Market

Saturday morning.

Rice, meat and vegetables in the BFTs and *bagsakan* centers are about 12 percent cheaper than those sold in regular retail outlets.

"This is why we are asking our suppliers to help us carry out this centerpiece antihunger program to guarantee the stable supply of basic goods in Metro Manila especially during the holidays," he added.

Meanwhile, Yap assured food suppliers that the DA was ready to help them sell their goods and earn higher profit margins.

He explained that with the BFTs and centers, producers can cut down on costly, unnec-

essary trading layers and instead, facilitate direct market links with retailers.

One example, Yap noted, was the recent move by the Lipa Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Limcoma) to set up a "Meat Shop ng Bayan" at a *bagsakan* center in Commonwealth Market in Quezon City.

Limcoma members said they could sell pork at only P125 a kilo as against the average price of P140 a kilo in other retail and wet markets in Metro Manila.

As a result, other

stalls inside the Commonwealth Market were gradually pulling down their prices from P140 a kilo to as low as P130 a kilo.

"This only goes to show that if there is a concerted effort on the part of the DA and our food suppliers, we can make basic food items affordable and also

raise incomes for agricultural producers," Yap noted.

The DA is helping Limcoma replicate its project in other major drop-off centers in Metro Manila, including wet markets in Pasig and Muntinlupa.

As of mid-October this year, 22 BFTs have already been set up in

Metro Manila and six in other parts of Luzon and the Visayas.

These BFTs directly benefit over 450,000 families.

The DA plans to expand the Metro Manila network of BFTs to 27 by this year and then put up 48 more in the provinces by the end of next year.

SUPPLY CHAIN CONSULTING PHILIPPINES, INC.

is moving offices:

Starting December 10, 2007, our new address will be:

6th Flr. Southpark Plaza,
Santiago St. Paseo de
Magallanes, Makati City

Trunkline: 976-0500



NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID PROCUREMENT OF 2008 TRANSFER OF NFA STOCKS THRU VOYAGE CHARTER OF NFA REGION VII

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, through its *Corporate Budget* for 2008 intends to apply the sum of *Ninety Eight Million Eight Hundred Sixty Four Thousand and Six Hundred Pesos (P98,864,600.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of 2008 Transfer of NFA Stocks thru Voyage Charter of NFA Region 7.

The National Food Authority, Region VII, Cebu City is inviting all interested licensed operators of vessels/barges whether owned or chartered through Bareboat/Time/Voyage Charter to apply for eligibility and to bid under the Contract for Vessel/Barge Hire for the shipment of rice from Cebu City to various destinations as indicated below:

VOLUME SCHEDULED FOR SEA DISPERSAL

DESTINATION Province	Port	Lott#	Maximum Quantity/Lot (bags)	Freight Rate/bag	Approved Budget for the Contract per lot	Bidding Fee
Bantayan Is.	Sta. Fe	1	72,000	27.10	1,951,200.00	2,000.00
Camotes Is.	Tudela	2	64,000	23.20	1,484,800.00	2,000.00
Bohol	Tagbilaran	3	240,000	30.85	7,404,000.00	8,000.00
	Tapal	4	80,000	26.90	2,152,000.00	2,000.00
Negros Or.	Dumaguete	5	272,000	28.35	7,711,200.00	8,000.00
Siquijor	Larena	6	44,000	28.35	1,247,400.00	2,000.00
N. Leyte	Tacloban	7	344,000	36.35	12,504,400.00	10,000.00
	Ormoc	8	56,000	31.40	1,758,400.00	2,000.00
S. Leyte	Baybay	9	64,000	30.30	1,939,200.00	2,000.00
	Maasin	10	84,000	35.65	2,994,600.00	2,000.00
Biliran	Naval	11	104,000	38.15	3,967,600.00	2,000.00
W. Samar	Catbalogan	12	240,000	38.15	9,156,000.00	8,000.00
	Calbayog	13	136,000	34.75	4,726,000.00	4,000.00
N. Samar	San Jose	14	304,000	37.00	11,248,000.00	10,000.00
E. Samar	Borongan	15	188,000	45.40	8,535,200.00	8,000.00
	Guian	16	52,000	39.80	2,069,600.00	2,000.00
Zambo. del Sur	Pagadian	17	243,000	47.00	11,421,000.00	10,000.00
Zambo. del Norte	Dipolog	18	157,000	42.00	6,594,000.00	4,000.00
TOTAL			2,744,000	98,864,600.00	88,000.00	

Delivery of the GOODS is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2008, or upon completion of the services, whichever is applicable.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." Bidders must have a Largest Single Contract that is completed and accomplished within the twelve month period between 2004 up to the present which is similar in nature and the value thereof must be at least 50% of the ABC. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect the Bidding Documents at NFA, Banilad, Cebu City starting December 10, 2007 to January 03, 2008 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount indicated in the above table. The method of payment will be in cash.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **January 04, 2008 @ 9:00 AM** at NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on **January 18, 2008 not later than 9:00 AM**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof:

Form of Security

Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be bid

One Percent (1%)

Cash or Cashier's/Manager's Check

Issued by a reputable commercial bank

GSIS Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand"

One & a Half Percent (2.5%)

Notarized Bank Guarantee

One & a Half Percent (1.5%)

Bid opening shall be on **JANUARY 18, 2008 @ 9:00 AM** at NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bidding. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY reserves the right to accept bids most advantageous to the government or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

RAUL B. CHONG

Banilad, Cebu City

Tel # 032-232-1939

email address: nfar07@cvls.net.ph

Fax # 032-233-6095

website: www.nfacebu.net.ph

(Sgd.) RAUL B. CHONG

RBAC Chairman/ARD

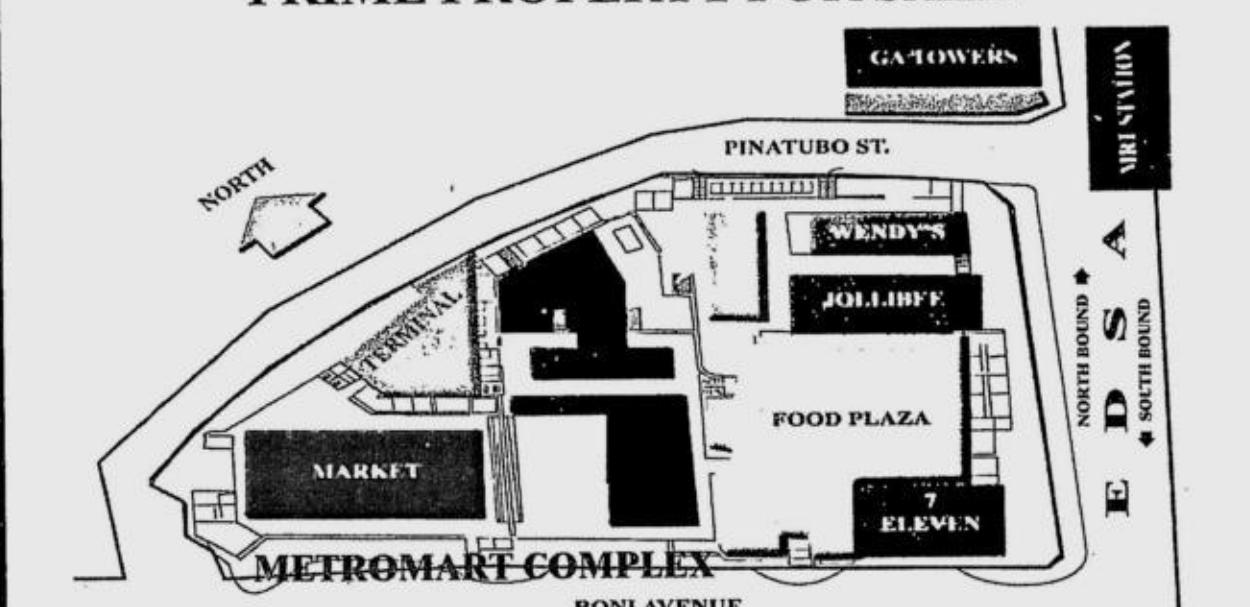
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LIVELIHOOD CORPORATION

7/F One Corporate Plaza Cond., 845 A. Arnaiz Ave., Legazpi Vill., Brgy. San Lorenzo, Makati City Tel. No. 817-0771



PRIME PROPERTY FOR SALE



Vicinity Map

INVITATION TO BID

The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR) is offering for sale in cash or installment the property described below:

Description	Area	Address	Floor Price	Terms of Sale
Commercial Complex	7,428.0 square meters	Along EDSA cor. Boni Avenue and Pinatubo Sts., Mandaluyong City	P 426,977,000.00	Cash

1. The sale of the property shall be on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis.

2. Bidders bond shall not be less than 1% of the floor price.

3. Bidding documents can be secured upon payment of non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 at the following address:

BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR)

7th Floor One Corporate Plaza,

845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.

4. Pre-Bid Conference will be on December 19, 2007, Wednesday at 10:00 AM, Conference Room, The Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.

5. The sealed bids should be dropped at the designated drop box located at the security desk of the Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City on or before 10:00 AM on Friday, January 18, 2008.

6. All bidders are enjoined to inspect the property/ies before submitting their bids.

For more details, please contact Luz C. Jacinto, BAC Secretariat at tel. no. (02) 817-07-71 or 817-04-64 and Cell No. 0918-6078530 or Felix Samson, Officer-in-Charge, EDMD at tel. no. 531-3324 and cell no. 0928-3038068.

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BUSINESS

IMF airs concern over RP's dwindling tax effort

By Michelle V. Remo

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY Fund has taken notice of the Philippines' dwindling tax effort and asked the government on what it has been doing to shore up tax collection.

"[A team from the IMF] wanted to know why the tax effort was falling," said Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran. "We told them that efficiency of tax collection already showed signs of improvement recently, although this was not enough to increase tax effort in January to September."

The IMF made the inquiry during

Gov't registered gains in collection, but not enough to make a difference

one of the meetings it held with government representatives last week. The IMF team arrived in Manila on Nov. 29 to assess the country's fiscal climate and overall economy. Members of the team are scheduled to leave tomorrow. Beltran said the IMF visit was not a specialized monitoring activity because the Philippines earlier this year had already exited the IMF's post-program monitoring (PPM) due to improve-

ments in the country's fiscal condition.

Tax effort, a closely watched economic indicator, settled at 14.4 percent in January to September this year, falling from 14.7 percent in the same period last year.

Tax effort is the national government's tax collection divided by the country's gross domestic product. The decline meant that the government failed to increase tax collection

in step with the economy's growth. Economic growth, which indicates higher corporate and/or household income, normally brings about a commensurate increase in tax collection. But finance officials admitted that collection efficiency problems, aggravated by delinquent taxpayers, were pulling down the tax effort despite better-than-expected performance of the economy.

The economy, as measured by gross domestic product, grew by 7.1 percent in the first three quarters from that of the same period last year, breaching the full-year growth target of 6.1 to 6.7 percent.

PLDT ordered to pay higher regulatory fee

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CO. (PLDT) is due to pay some P350 million in supervision and regulatory fee (SRF) to the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) this year after losing a 19-year court battle to exclude stock dividends from the SRF computation.

The NTC computes SRF based on telcos' capitalization. The companies pay the regulator an SRF of P0.50 centavos for every P100 of paid-in capital.

According to NTC data, PLDT has been paying SRF based on subscribed stock, excluding stock dividends. The telco paid around P300 million in 2006. Following the Supreme Court ruling, the telco may now have to pay P50 million more or some P350 million, starting this year.

Last week, the Supreme Court upheld a 1999 decision on how the SRF should be computed, and clarified that the assessment should include stock dividends.

PLDT's contention was that stock dividends should not be counted together with subscribed capital stock because the subscribers or shareholders do not pay for their issuances.

The Supreme Court rejected this reasoning and said that stockholders, by receiving stock dividends, are forced to exchange the monetary value of their dividend for capital stock, and the monetary value they forego is considered the actual payment for the original issuance of the stocks given as dividends.

Therefore, stock dividends acquired by shareholders for the monetary value they forego are under the coverage of the SRF and the basis for the latter is such monetary value as declared by the board of directors," the Supreme Court ruling said.

PLDT spokesperson Ramon Isberto declined to comment on the Supreme Court decision, saying that the telco has yet to receive a copy of the ruling.

NTC deputy commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said the regulator has not received a copy either, but said the Supreme Court decision backing the agency's computation means that PLDT will have to pay SRFs. But the actual amount to be paid for 2007, and all other unpaid SRF over the past years, have yet to be finalized based on the high court's decision.

Canada miner raises P399M for exploration

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CANADIAN MINING FIRM MBMI Resources Inc. announced it had raised about P399.5 million from the issuance of common shares and purchase warrants through the TSX Venture exchange.

The company said in a statement the net proceeds would be used for exploration and development of its Philippine nickel mineral properties and for general corporate purposes.

MBMI's local unit, Narra Nickel, has secured three small scale mine operating (SSMO) permits for the Alpha nickel laterite project in Palawan.

While an SSMO does not entitle a firm to engage in full-scale mining operations, it does allow annual shipments of up to 50,000 dry metric tons of material for a two-year period from each 20-hectare permitted area.

MBMI said that, so far, at least 70,000 wet metric tons of mineralized material has been excavated and transported to the stock yard where it is being prepared for shipment.

This came about after MBMI secured last month four supply deals with buyers from China, Australia and Japan. The firm in June had already commenced shipments to buyers in South Korea and China.

The agreements covered nickel supplies with content ranging from 1.5 percent nickel to about 2.3 percent.

The agreements were forged with Sinosteel Raw Materials Co., Huber Jin Hui, and BHP's QNI Group, each for 35,000 to 40,000 dry metric tons of ore; and Nippon Yakin Kogyo Co. Ltd. for 6,000 and 8,000 DMT of material.

As of last month, MBMI had said the supply for Sinosteel Raw Materials was being prepared for shipment and that the buyer was securing the carrying vessel.

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Promo period: 15 Nov. 2007 to 20 Feb. 2008. See Ayala for details. MBMI Resources Inc. TSX Venture Exchange.

BUSINESS Monday

Daddy's girl turns into a woman

From party animal to make-up free executive

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

KATRINA PONCE-ENRILE WILL be the first to admit that when she joined her father's company in 1989 as treasurer, she was more of a glorified rubber stamp.

All that the Political Science graduate of the University of the Philippines did was sign checks since much of the work was done by the competent staff led by Nora Bitong, former chief executive officer of the diversified Jaka group of Sen. Juan Ponce-Enrile.

But even then she knew that she was capable of doing so much more.

She did not care that there were people who dismissed her as little more than a party girl and the apple of her father's eye.

Ponce-Enrile was certainly put to the test in 1998 when she took over the reins of the company when her brother, Jack, gave them up to enter politics.

By some unfortunate twist of fate, Ponce-Enrile took over as chief executive officer just three

months before the highly diversified company felt the full impact of the 1997 Asian currency crisis.

Growing up

She says in an interview that she had to grow up in a hurry and muster all the resources she did not even know she had in her because she just had to save the company from being shuttered.

At that time, creditors were knocking on her door, all wanting to get their hands on Jaka, which was saddled with over P2 billion in debt.

Revenues were fast drying up and she faced the very real possibility that the Jaka group would become just a footnote in corporate history.

Determined to rescue the company from the depths of its misery, Katrina and her management team took a close look at the group and together made the difficult decision of closing some subsidiaries so that others would be saved.

"We just looked at the companies and those that did not

contribute positively to the bottom line, we had to get rid of," she says, "during the good times, Jaka had a lot of borderline companies, like an air charter service, mineral water firm and a poultry farm."

These companies just had to go because these were weighing down Jaka, threatening to pull the entire group under.

After weeding out some subsidiaries, the Jaka group was left with five areas of competence: lights and woods; financial services; property and securities operations; distribution and logistics and food distribution.

The closure of some companies and the improvements in the others helped Jaka emerge from the crisis bruised but still alive, and Ponce-Enrile has survived to tell the tale.

"Looking back, I really did not feel such an impact on me at that time because I did not know what was coming to me. I just tried to do what I needed to

do," she says.

Ponce-Enrile stresses, however, that the Jaka group has not stopped improving itself and has even set its sights on again becoming the major industry player that it was before.

"We are slowly getting into things, but not as grand. We have a view of investing in doable, little things that will immediately turn in a profit. No more grand projects for us... we know our strengths," Ponce-Enrile says.

New projects

Among these "little" things are a new restaurant that will sell restaurant-style Filipino food, something of a high end carinderia where viands will sell at about P120 an order, and a new property development project in Batangas that will hopefully ride on the tourism and real estate boom.

Slow but sure is the pace that she wants to take in these days of Jaka's renewed growth.

Looking back on her troubles during the crisis years, Ponce-

Enrile says,



JAKA group CEO Katrina Ponce-Enrile

PHOTOS BY JEROME DUMLAO

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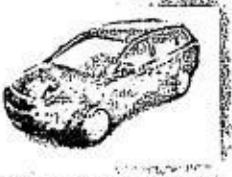
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MOVEMENTS

PAL's Cruz elected
Aseanta president

PHILIPPINE Airlines vice president for marketing support Felix J. Cruz has been elected president of the Aseanta Tourism Association (Aseanta), the region's premier tourism organization, following the resignation of Ely Hutabarat of Indonesia recently.

Cruz, erstwhile deputy president of Aseanta, was elected to serve the unexpired term of Hutabarat, from Oct. 27, 2007 to Jan. 31, 2009, as head of the influential tourism body.

Steering the organization with him are William Tan of the National Association of Travel Agents Singapore as treasurer and Datuk Mohammad Ilyas Zainol Abidin of the Malaysian Association of Hotels as secretary general. The appointment of a new deputy president will be discussed at the next Aseanta board meeting in January 2008.

Cruz said the airline sector was a major catalyst for further boosting tourism in Asean, signaling that this would be a focus of his term.

"I encourage more active participation from the airlines because the development of tourism into and within the Asean region will not be possible without the vital support of the air transport sector," he said.

Cruz has served as PAL's vice president for marketing support since 1999. In that capacity, he oversees the Philippine flag carrier's product research and development, advertising and promotions, product loyalty marketing, in-house tour programs, and customer relations.

Founded in March 1971, the Kuala Lumpur-based Aseanta comprises both public and private sector organizations involved in tourism from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

These include national tourism organizations, such as the Philippine Department of Tourism; national travel agencies associations; national hotel associations; and national airlines from all 10 Asean member countries.

Over the last 36 years, Aseanta has grown to become the leading tourism association in the region, playing an integral role in elevating Asean into one of the world's prime tourist destinations, and building tourism into one of Asean's largest and most economically important industries.

Apac appoints first
Filipinos as regional VPs

APAC Customer Services Inc. (Apac), a leading provider of customer care and solutions, has announced the promotions of Amabelle Ramos-Pertierra and Joe Mar Tabarangao as regional vice presidents of operations, for the healthcare segment. The promotions represent the first Filipino promotions to vice president rank at Apac.

Apac is the market leader for complex inbound healthcare voice applications in the Philippines, Apac Philippines country manager Jim Griffin said. Our knowledge and specialized resources, including curriculum development, have created a competitive advantage for us in this segment which has resulted in our rapid growth in this area, and now in the opportunity to promote from within to VP rank.

Ramos-Pertierra joined Apac in 2003 as a workforce manager. She held the operations manager post for the healthcare segment for a year and became senior operations manager and then director of operations. As vice president she will lead four operations managers handling 10 different healthcare clients.

Tabarangao was part of the Apac's pioneer team in 2003. He was promoted to operations manager, senior operations manager and director of operations.

As vice president he will lead three operations managers who oversee three large healthcare clients plus a client in the travel segment.

Since the beginning of the year, we have promoted 72 people to team leader positions, eight people to new manager posts, and six people to new director positions, reports Griffin.

Apac's total leadership ranks have grown from 395 in January this year, to 606 today. This refers to supervisor, manager and director-level promotions. This is a 53-percent increase in leadership team size since the beginning of the year. The increase is expected to continue with the opening of its fourth facility in 2008. Apac began its Philippine operations in 2003 and continues to strategically invest in various operations.

Juniper appoints new officer

JUNIPER Networks Inc., the leader in high-performance networking, has appointed Penny Wilson as chief marketing officer. With more than 25 years of marketing and technology leadership experience, Wilson joins Juniper Networks after serving as senior vice president and chief marketing officer at Macromedia Inc., acquired by Adobe Systems Inc.

"We are excited that Penny is on board to lead our global marketing organization," said Stephen Elop, chief operating officer, Juniper Networks. "Penny's extensive marketing and technology background will enable us to clearly articulate Juniper's value proposition to the market and deepen our dialogue with those high-performance businesses that view their networks as critical to their success."

Wilson will be responsible for leading Juniper's global marketing programs and resources. Working closely with the executive management team, she will direct the company's global marketing initiatives designed to align and support the company's corporate strategy and growth plans. Wilson will report directly to Elop.

As former SVP and chief marketing officer for Macromedia, she led the company's worldwide marketing efforts leading up to and through the successful acquisition by Adobe Systems Inc. in December 2005. Some key assignments included spearheading Macromedia's vertical market strategy, executing the launch of the MX-series product line, and building the online entertainment portal for Shockwave.com.

Daddy's girl turns into a woman

Enrile says she realized that she possessed more strength than she gave herself credit for.

It may have helped that she had always been held up against formidable standards by her parents, especially her father.

"His standards were very high. When he wanted something done, he wanted it done immediately. He was always very impatient," Ponce-Enrile says.

From her mother, she says she learned table manners and inherited a love for music. She remembers growing up to different sounds around the house—Broadway, classics and opera.

Children

Also contributing to the development of her character are her children, the eldest of which she had at 19 years old.

Ponce-Enrile says that her daughter

now works in an asset management firm in New York and comes home once in a while to visit her mother and three younger siblings—Juan Rodrigo C. Ponce-Enrile, in his third year at the University of the Philippines taking Tourism; 15-year-old Kristen Noelle de la Calzada and 8-year-old Cristiana Aleyna C. Ponce-Enrile.

She adds in jest that it is not really work that raises her stress levels, but her children.

If she looks more at peace, part of the reason is her finding a new love—husband James Kocher.

Ponce-Enrile says that these days, she would be found going to the office without a trace of makeup. She sometimes goes in her Bermuda shorts. She

adds that she only bothers to get dressed up when she has to go somewhere or if she has to meet people.

"There are more important things than setting your hair," she declares.

Put down her casual attitude, she says, to her tendency to just take things in stride, no matter how difficult the situation.

What gets her riled up are employees who do not tell the truth.

"I don't like surprises and I don't like it when people come to me with a problem and no recommended solutions. I tell them that if you want me to give you all the answers, then I might as well have your salary," she said.

Ponce-Enrile puts in a lot of time at work and gets in bright and early because she has largely given up the nightlife.

She no longer goes to a party practically every night, like she did in her teens, and instead prefers to go to small parties thrown by friends and family. She even gets to spend more time these days with her 83-year-old father who lives with her in the same compound.

It's a more quiet life, she says, and one she has no intention of giving up.



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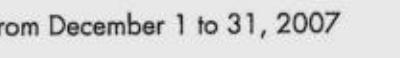
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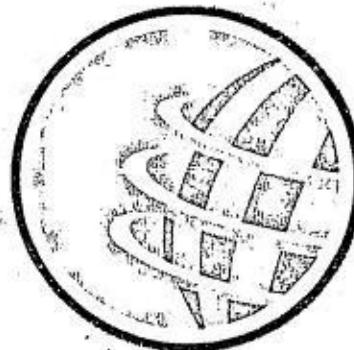


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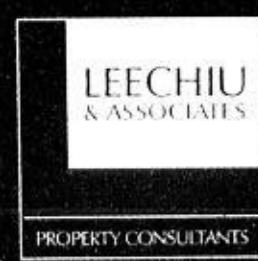
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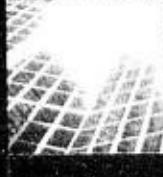
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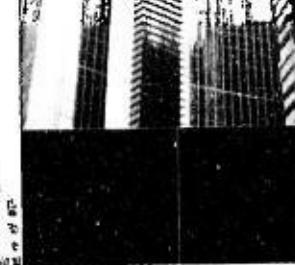
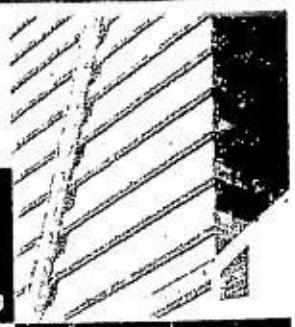
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RP mobile media set for sea change

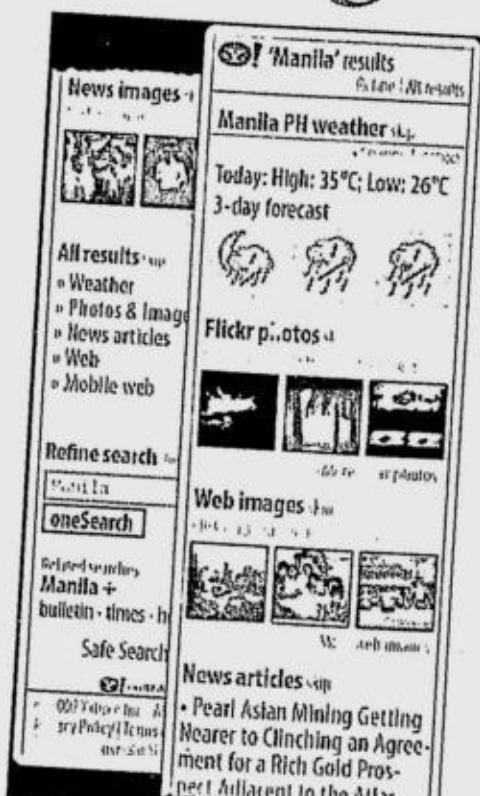
Yahoo!, Globe eye headstart

By Daxim L. Lucas

CALL IT THE BASE EFFECT.

Because mobile advertising was virtually nonexistent in the country until very recently, experts now predict that the Philippines will become one of the hottest growth markets for ads placed in personal communication devices like cellular phones.

If these experts are correct, this trend would have profound implications on the way companies do business in the country, and may



'ONLINE advertising growth in the Philippines will outpace the global market.'

further spur traditional media to reorient their business toward the mobile online world.

"Online advertising growth in the Philippines will outpace the global market," said Yahoo! Connected Life Asia vice president and general manager David Ko. "Because there are no third party metrics to predict the market, we can be assured that an up-and-coming market with increasingly more sophisticated marketers will leverage this medium in a big way over the short to medium and long term."

The potential is not lost on Yahoo! which has steadily grown its mobile network to cover

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LBC carries on advancing and fulfilling its mission to reach out to the global Filipino community that will ultimately make the world a smaller place.

BUSINESSMonday

Leadership by example

IT IS TO MY REGRET THAT I did not become a member of the Foreign Buyers Association of the Philippines decades ago when I was asked to head a company called PREL, which organized and operated an exclusive buying agency for Walmart in five Asian countries.

Oddly enough, at least during my watch, PREL did not have responsibility over the Philippines. Having subsequently sold the company, I now vaguely recall the challenges of finding the right people for each country office, identifying products, sourcing primary and secondary suppliers, pricing competitively, controlling quality, delivering on time and having to fully satisfy the client at all times.

Man in charge

I remember reading not too long ago a feature on Walmart in either Time or Newsweek magazine, for example, where a reference was made about the most important man in global retailing—one who was in charge of buying a couple of hundred billion dollars from China alone for Walmart, now the largest company in Fortune's 500.

His name is Emilio Cui. By the way, Chiqui, as we call him, is a Filipino whom I had the good fortune of recruiting at the very outset to run our Singapore operation. As demonstrated by the likes of Chiqui, I say hooray for the Filipino!

That for me was many moons ago. From 2001-2006, I had the privilege of humbly serving our country as the ambassador to the United States. In addition to being a treaty ally and a provider of the highest level of

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Albert F. del Rosario

official development grant assistance, the United States, as you know, is cumulatively our largest foreign investor and is as well our largest trading partner.

That said, perhaps what I can provide for you in the next few minutes is my overview of how the people in the United States perceive the Philippines as of the time I left there a little more than a year ago. This hopefully will be of interest and serve to broaden your perspective.

If this is acceptable, let me articulate—if you will—certain notable sentiments from the private and public sectors in the United States.

One great observation is that nearly everyone wants the Arroyo government to succeed.

A second great observation is that there exists a huge reservoir of American goodwill for the Filipino people. Everywhere you go, you will find this to be true, including the executive and legislative branches of the US government.

For the first time in US-RP relations, for instance, we were successful in organizing a Philippine Friendship Caucus composed of 82 US congressmen who have been most helpful in promoting Philippine interest to the extent of our being able to obtain in excess of \$1.2 billion in defense, security and economic assistance over a five-year period.

To say the least, I had been extremely well received not on-

ly in nearly 40 states but also in twice as many cities by all levels of government. This indeed was most gratifying.

The not-so-great observation is that we have not been fully successful in tapping this goodwill. In order to change this, there is a consensus that we must show more political will to do what is right in addressing our country's problems.

We are expected to do what is right 1) in defending our democracy, 2) in continuing to reform the economy, 3) in improving governance through addressing corruption and inequality, and 4) in fighting terrorism and maintaining peace and order.

In terms of defending our democracy, our many friends are expecting that we will be able to reform our electoral process.

In the halls of US Congress, there are deep concerns about alleged human rights violations against journalists and political activists which remain to be addressed.

In terms of economic reforms, it is essential for us to improve infrastructure and productivity. We must also lower the costs of doing business, eliminate red tape and have a working national policy on competitiveness.

In terms of good governance, we need to address the problem of corruption by accelerating effective programs against smugglers and tax evaders. The full force of the law should be applied to those found guilty and the message must be established that no one is above the law.

In terms of addressing in-

equality, we must invest more in livelihood, in education and in the health of our people. This fortunately has begun as a result of improved fiscal performance.

In terms of fighting terrorism and maintaining peace and order, we must stay on course in reforming the AFP and the PNP. We must, as well, finalize the elusive peace process with the MILF to unleash the full potential of Mindanao.

Of equal importance, we need to encourage our national leadership to give more focus to execution, rather than rhetoric. In other words, we must walk the talk.

Countless opportunities

In terms of execution, there were countless opportunities for private and public cooperation. To illustrate, there was a proposed preferential legislation in US Congress on canned tuna products for the Andean countries which was intended to wean them away from the illegal drug trade.

The proposed legislation would have adversely affected our canned tuna industry located in General Santos. As 60 percent of total production was being exported to the United States, the viability of the entire industry was placed in jeopardy.

Obviously, the whole preferential legislation would have undermined the RP-US partnership in revitalizing Mindanao. The resulting hoards of the unemployed would moreover make people increasingly vulnerable to being recruited for terrorism. The argument was a convincing one but it had to be proactively advanced.

To successfully maintain the

status quo in the protection of our canned tuna industry, we marched to Congress 128 times in six weeks. Although the canned tuna industry provided the embassy with an expense allowance of P2 million, we happily did not use any part of it.

At the embassy, we exercised all possible initiatives to open and enlarge markets in the United States for Philippine products. This included renewing the GSP privilege, which provides for nontariff exports on over 500 products for another five years and increasing its utilization to \$1 billion.

We were moreover working toward a bilateral Free Trade Agreement with the United States, which could have been made to happen but did not. The initiative as of 2003 was officially offered by the United States, but notwithstanding our encouragement for it to move forward, it resulted in another missed opportunity for the Philippines.

A few weeks ago, I was interviewed by the Foreign Affairs Journal, a very influential publication read by heads of state throughout the world as well as by decision makers in the US Capital. At the conclusion of the interview, I was asked what I would expect to say if I were to be interviewed again four years from now.

My response was all economic experts would seem to agree that the outlook for Asia in terms of stability and economic growth is as good as it can ever be. My hope is that four years from now, we will be in a position to say that the Philippines did not get left behind.

Several months before, I was also invited to speak by the graduating class of the UP

School of Economics. It was for me an occasion to express concern at the silence and the seeming apathy of our youth.

I felt very deeply that, following the youth of yesterday, the youth of today should be taking up the cudgels for the voiceless and the marginalized sectors of our society.

Proactive citizenship

If the negative perception is valid, we therefore need to strongly encourage our children to help build our nation by advancing the true concept of a proactive citizenship.

Notwithstanding the increasing number of disappointments and challenges, there still remains the opportunity for us to move forward if our national leadership is prepared to lead and do what is right in defending our democracy, in continuing to reform our economy, in improving governance through addressing corruption and inequality and in fighting terrorism and maintaining peace and order.

As consistent with enunciations by President Macapagal-Arroyo of building a strong Republic, if leadership by example can finally be provided, what remains is for all of us to fully join together in doing what needs to be done.

The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. Speech delivered by the author during the 30th anniversary of the Foreign Buyers Association of the Philippines on Nov. 23, 2007. The author is president of the MAP and Chair of Gotuaco del Rosario & Associates. Feedback at <mapsec@globeriet.com.ph>.)

MARK GROSS TO CHAIR CANNES 2008 RADIO LIONS JURY

London, 27

November 2007 — The talent behind the award winning 'Real Men of Genius' radio campaign, Mark Gross, Senior Vice President and Group Creative Director of DDB Chicago, has been appointed as the Cannes Lions 2008 Radio Lions jury president.

With a BFA in Advertising Design from Syracuse University, Mark Gross began his advertising career in 1990 in New York City designing movie titles and logos for post-production house R. Greenberg Associates. Drawn to advertising, Mark landed a much-coveted junior art director position at Chiat/Day New York in 1991 where he learned the art of creating award-winning work on accounts such as MTV, Reebok, American Express and New York Lottery in his two-year stint there.

At DDB, Mark has risen from art director to group creative director creating award-winning campaigns for the agency's premiere account, Anheuser-Busch. Mark's most notable work is the Bud Light 'Always Worth It' campaign and the Bud Light 'Real Men of Genius' campaign, now known for being the most awarded radio campaign in advertising history.

Mark served on the inaugural Radio Lions jury at Cannes in 2005. He's won numerous awards, which include the Andy's,



Clio, Radio Mercury Awards, Kinsale Awards, the One Show, D&AD, Art Director's Club, New York Festivals and two Cannes Grand Prix Radio Lions.

"When we launched Radio Lions in 2005, as well as recognizing radio as an important communication tool, we also wanted to provide a platform to help raise its creativity to the high standard that has been reached by the other categories judged in Cannes", said Philip Thomas, Festival CEO. "Mark's understanding of how powerful radio advertising can be and his proficiency for producing award-winning radio ads will surely inspire those using radio to ever-greater creative heights", continued Thomas.

Commenting on his appointment, Mark Gross said, "It's not as glamorous as TV. It doesn't look as beautiful as a well-designed print ad. It won't break new ground like alternative media. But when it's done well, there's no medium more powerfully effective than radio. It's an honour and a privilege to serve as this year's Radio Jury President. There's nothing more exciting to me than sitting down to a collection of the greatest radio creative in the world, pressing play and preparing myself to be blown away."

Mark spends his spare time flying a Cessna, running, cooking, painting and spending time with his wife and two children.

PRASOON JOSHI TO HEAD CANNES LIONS 2008 OUTDOOR JURY

London, 5 December 2007 — Prasoon Joshi, Executive Chairman of McCann Worldgroup India and Regional Executive Creative Director Asia Pacific, will be next year's Outdoor Lions jury president.

Considered the torchbearer of the young breed and the contemporary face of Indian Advertising, Prasoon is accredited with creating a distinct identity for Indian Advertising by combining 'structured' western style with the inherent 'chaos' of the Indian way of life. Turning to 'tunes of many big brands he is also attributed with marrying 'creativity and scale'.

From the ground breaking 2003 Coca-Cola campaign to the 2007 prolific 'Happydent Palace' chewing gum commercial, his work has gained credence both with the public and international juries. Prasoon has won more than 400 national and international advertising awards including Gold, Silver and Bronze Lions at Cannes, Ad Fest Asia, Media, and honours at One Show, D&AD and Clio. Under his leadership, McCann Erickson India has transformed into a veritable creative powerhouse and Prasoon has set in motion the creative renaissance of the company's agencies in Asia.

Terry Savage, Chairman of the Festival, commented, "Prasoon Joshi is an extremely

talented and passionate creative leader who is pushing the boundaries that ultimately shape the future culture of his country and beyond. A jury president of such talent is a welcome addition to The Cannes Festival in 2008."

"It's wonderful to be part of Cannes as a Jury President and a creative individual. There is no 'formula', specific style or trend that connotes Cannes. It always surprises and I celebrate this unpredictability. Outdoor is an 'eye-lid' medium; in most cases blink and it's gone. It's not easy to have an intricate craft in it and very specific ideas and execution are required for this medium. I would like us to appreciate the nuances of this category and honour them. I look forward to an exciting time at Cannes 2008," said Prasoon Joshi on his appointment.

In 2006, Prasoon was nominated as a 'Young Global Leader' by the World Economic Forum, joining other extraordinary individuals under the age of 40 who share a commitment to shaping the global future; and on the occasion of India's 60 years of Independence, a few months ago, The Times of India put Prasoon amongst the country's 'Top 60 Icons' for his contribution in several fields that have shaped and impacted India's public awareness.

A writer and poet, Prasoon has already had three books published and is an accomplished songwriter for many popular Bollywood films earning him a BAFTA and Oscar nomination. But Prasoon, who believes in breaking moulds, still considers advertising as his first love and a modern art form.



RP mobile ...

From page B3-1

over 500 million users per month on its global network.

"This audience provides marketers and advertisers with an opportunity to reach 50 percent—or one out of every two—online users," he said during a recent interview after the company unveiled new partnerships with mobile phone networks across Asia.

In the Philippines, Yahoo! has already partnered with Globe Telecom Inc. giving the 17 million subscribers of the country's second largest mobile phone network the ability to use Yahoo! Online services on their cellular phones.

Nonetheless, the Philippines remains one of the least wired countries in the region, with Internet penetration still standing just around the vicinity of the critical 20-percent benchmark.

This fails to deter companies like Yahoo! and Globe which are counting on the growing sophistication of Filipino consumers to expand their markets and drive their bottom lines.

"There are several factors that will boost mobile advertising uptake in the Philippines, such as building awareness for and an understanding of the online medium," Ko said. "What we are starting to see is a critical mass of online users."

"When the online population of the country exceeds a rate of 20 percent of the total population, marketers wake up," he added.

According to the Yahoo! official, advertisers in Philippines are increasingly becoming aware that consumers are spending more time online, despite the fact that online advertising continues to comprise a minuscule portion of companies' advertising budgets.

"In general, people spend more than 15 percent of their media consumption online," Ko said. "However, advertisers only spend about one percent of their advertising budgets on online."

Other market research firms are even more conservative, saying that only 0.2 percent of the estimated \$1 billion spent in the local advertising scene goes to mobile or interactive ads.

This translates to only P84 mil-

YAHOO!

product to provide more localized services for the Philippine market, through a "Pinoy-centric" offering on yahoo.com.ph.

"We now have a large reach and an engaged audience that advertisers can connect with," the official said.

The Yahoo!-Globe partnership looks particularly promising.

Both firms are enhancing the search experience for consumers on mobile phones, while providing both companies with new revenue streams through mobile advertising.

This partnership is significant because the forecast for global mobile marketing and advertising will increase six-fold to \$19 billion by 2011 from an estimated \$3 billion by the end of 2007, according to ABI Research.

In countries like the Philippines, where over 51 percent of the population own mobile phones—compared to a maximum Internet penetration of 25 percent—this type of service is highly relevant from both an audience and advertiser perspective.

The advantage of online or mobile advertising is that it can be targeted to different demographic segments and be based on behavioral ingredients," Ko said. "Traditional media cannot tell a marketer if a consumer spent 12 minutes interacting with the ad that was placed in a daily newspaper—on the other hand, online can."

Indeed, if the thrust of Yahoo! is proven correct, the local and global media scene is about to change further, at a far more dizzying pace.

This translates to only P84 mil-

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2007

B3

BUSINESSMonday

Face the future with right partner

E-tool streamlines shipment process

DHL, THE WORLD'S leading express and logistics company, has launched DHL eMailShip, a patented electronic service designed to streamline shipment procedures for clients, particularly small and medium enterprises, in 18 Asia Pacific countries. This enables customers to electronically send their shipment details to DHL.

NO ONE CAN TELL WHAT WILL happen in the future. But that does not mean people should not prepare for what may lie ahead. But how can one be adequately prepared?

The answer lies in insurance. It's about protecting the family and ensuring that family members will still maintain the same

quality of life when the head of the family gets sick, passes away, or loses a job. It's about ensuring that children will still be able to finish school. It's about making sure one will have enough funds to sustain his lifestyle when retirement comes.

Everyone has heard of insurance, but with the slew of financial products in the

market today, how does one go about choosing the best one that will fit his or her family's needs?

For Citibank cardholders and bank clients, shopping for the right insurance product has been made easier with the assistance of Citicorp Financial Services and Insurance Brokerage Philippines Inc. (CFSI), Citi's insurance and investments arm in the country.

CFSI offers a range of insurance products: life insurance, educational plans, retirement/pension plans and health insurance. Currently, CFSI works with several established companies that belong to the top 10 insurance companies in the country.

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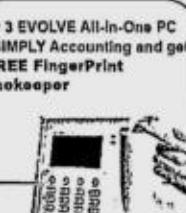
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BUSINESS Monday



LESS IS MORE FOR THIS REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

Survey shows consumers do not want a club, they want trees



By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE STRIP MALL is a popular spot for Laguna residents

LESS IS MORE FOR GREENFIELD Development Corp. (GDC) as the property arm of the Unilab group has to strip down its first solo real estate project in Sta. Rosa, Laguna and build what it fondly called as a "subdivision within a park."

Duane Santos, GDC executive vice president, says when the firm's planners sat down to conceptualize the real estate component of the 300-hectare Greenfield City, Pramana, they thought of putting up an ultimate sports and leisure club house.

"But when we did the research, prospective owners were asking about the monthly dues of maintaining such facilities. The prospective buyers say they did not want 12 badminton courts, what they really want is to go home with tree-lined roads and lots of open park for their kids to play," said Santos. "People are getting more practical in their home purchases. The price should not only fit their budget, they want to be sure they could afford the maintenance of their homes."

Santos said building a golf course-centered subdivision was out of the question considering that the property is virtually surrounded by a forest of golf residences.

"Sta. Rosa does not need another golf course. It needs a golf course like the sky needs an ozone hole," said Santos.

GDC promptly changed the concept and came up with a real estate project where a little more than 50 percent of the space is devoted to sprawling greens and wide open space.

"We thought we'd build a beautiful park inside a subdivision. We ended up having a subdivision inside a beautiful park. We can safely say we have the biggest open space among residential developments in the country," says Santos on the main selling point of the 80-hectare Pramana residential park. "It's a project that our late patriarch, Jose Y. Campos, would have been proud of."

The Pramana is GDC's first development project without any primary property developer acting as big brother.

Since the old man Campos had started amassing choice lots from United Laboratories profits 40 years ago, Santos believed that GDC "now has the talent to strike on its own after 20 years of experience."

ence with partners."

Santos says Pramana would be one of the crown jewels of the 300-hectare Greenfield City, a mixed-use commercial-industrial-residential which would fulfill the vision of Campos who saw in Sta. Rosa the potential to be a growth center along with other businessmen like Lucio Tan and the Ayalas who had also bought sizable lots in the area more than three decades ago. "Sta. Rosa will be the next Alabang and that is the direction we are taking in our development," says Santos.

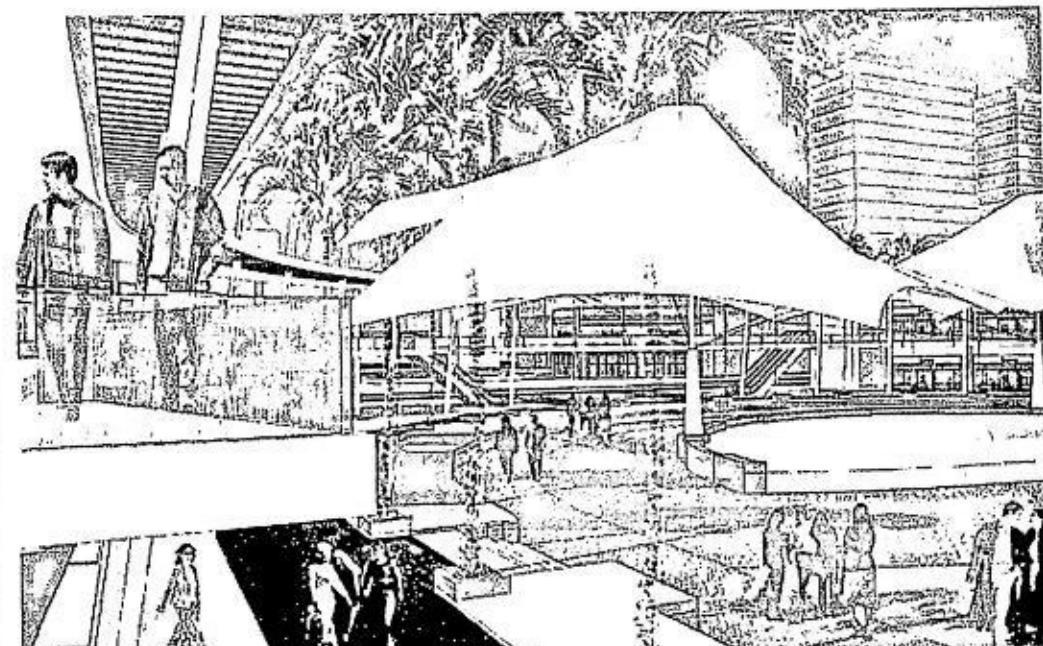
A catalyst in Sta. Rosa reaching its full potential is the expansion and rehabilitation of the South Luzon Expressway (which would cut travel time to Makati to close to 30 minutes) and it is the only growth center along the superhighway that has three entry and exit points.

"This is the reason why we are targeting families as our main market. You can get a three-bedroom house in an Asian-inspired park community here for the price of a 3-square meter condominium unit in the central business district. It's an ideal place for children to grow," said Santos.

GDC is spending P200 million to expand its popular Paseo de Sta. Rosa to add 33-hectares of retail space from the existing 12-hectare center. "We see the Paseo as the main retail and entertainment hub once Sta. Rosa grows as big and busy as Alabang," says Santos.

Santos says another P240 million had been allotted for the construction of two office towers for business process outsourcing centers at its Sta. Rosa Business Park.

Santos says Greenfield has shifted the focus of its commercial estate development by focusing more on support industries including warehousing and logistics rather than big manufacturing plants that were the rage in the 90s.



ARCHITECT'S perspective of new project. (Below) Carmaker Ford's plant in the south.



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Financial Strength Rating of B++ (Good)
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Issuer Credit Rating of bbb
(Stable, Investment grade)



PHOTO CAPTION: PhilNaRe President and Chief Executive Officer, Wilfrido C. Bantayan receives the Insurance/Reinsurance Industry Contribution Award from Keith Land, Chief Executive Officer of Kiln Asia, an underwriting agency based in Hong Kong and the sponsor of the aforementioned award category during the 2007 Asia Insurance Industry Awards in Singapore.

PhilNaRe cited for contribution in the Philippine insurance industry

Locally listed reinsurance company, National Reinsurance Corporation of the Philippines/PhilNaRe (PSE: NRCP), recently took home the Insurance/Reinsurance Industry Contribution Award from this year's Asia Insurance Industry Awards held in Singapore.

Organized by Singapore-based Asia Insurance Review and London-based The Review Worldwide Reinsurance magazines, the Asia Insurance Industry Awards is given once every two years to insurers and reinsurers that have made a significant impact in the industry.

"It is an honor to accept this award from one of the most highly respected award-giving bodies in our field," said Wilfrido C. Bantayan, PhilNaRe President & CEO, who was there to receive the award in behalf of the company.

PhilNaRe has positioned itself as a significant player in the region after going through a capital enhancement exercise earlier this year via initial public offering, raising as much as P2.8 billion and increasing its capacity and retention.

In addition to providing capacity, the company also offers technical assistance to its insurance company clients in the areas of underwriting, finance and administration.

PhilNaRe continues to support initiatives which promote the industry's growth and stability, such as the adoption of minimum rates on natural perils and the proposal for the establishment of a Philippine catastrophe insurance pool.

The 11th Asia Insurance Industry Awards lauded a regional cast of 15 winners, including three hailing from the economic powerhouses of China and India, four Southeast Asian companies and six multinational players with a strong Asian presence. This year, the Awards drew over 700 nominations from across the region, proof of how sought after they are as a symbol of prestige.

A.M. Best Company gives PhilNaRe favorable rating

National Reinsurance Corporation of the Philippines (NRCP/PhilNaRe) received a financial strength rating of B++ (Good) and an Issuer Credit Rating of bbb (Stable, Investment Grade) from A.M. Best (Asia-Pacific) Company. The rating agency's move is expected to enhance NRCP's plans to expand regionally.

PhilNaRe's substantial net worth of P6.5 billion and three decades of experience as the nation's primary reinsurer will enable the company to compete in the multibillion-dollar Asian reinsurance market.

According to PhilNaRe Chief Financial Officer John E. Huang, capitalization alone is not all that is needed. "To become a significant player, PhilNaRe had to obtain an international rating from a reputable agency such as A.M. Best because a Best's Rating reinforces confidence in the organization's stability, as well as its attractiveness to investors."

Founded in 1899, A.M. Best Company is a full-service credit rating organization dedicated to serving the financial services industries, including the banking and insurance sectors. A.M. Best is committed to maintaining Best's Ratings as the definitive source for information on the financial condition and operating performance of insurance companies worldwide.

PhilNaRe received the favorable rating because of its completion of a comprehensive audit using Best's Rating Methodologies on topics and issues like Insurance Groups, Issuer Credit and Debt Ratings and BCAR (Best's Capital Adequacy Ratio). The results were weighed against industry benchmarks.

Wilfrido C. Bantayan, PhilNaRe President & CEO, recounts their IPO experience and how it contributed to the company's rating success. "After the completion of the IPO in April 2007, PhilNaRe focused on streamlining operations especially in the areas of human resource management, information technology systems, marketing strategies, just to name a few. All these efforts were executed without compromising our service quality to our clients. Because of this, I believe we are justified in receiving a favorable international rating from the independent agency."

PhilNaRe is the only Filipino reinsurance company in the local market today and carries the status of a national reinsurer.



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US BPO firm launches Asian expansion in Manila

RAINMAKER SYSTEMS INC., A LEADING American business process outsourcing (BPO) firm with clients in the Fortune 500 companies, recently acquired privately held Qinteraction, a large call center in Makati, and is gearing up to dominate the Asian region.

Renamed Rainmaker Asia Inc., the regional company is increasing its manpower pool to fully serve the Asian market requirements of Rainmaker's diverse base of over 27 global clients, including Microsoft, IBM, Dell, Hewlett Packard, Symantec, Sun Microsystems, AT&T, and American Express.

Based in Silicon Valley, Rainmaker is a leading provider of sales and marketing solutions combining hosted application software and execution services. Rainmaker Asia is its second regional and global office outside the

United States, after Canada.

As a BPO firm, Rainmaker provides clients with back-office services, customer relationship management, collection and data work, and other top-quality expertise.

"But our main focus is on building stronger relationships with customers and on encouraging more customers to buy more products and services from our clients," says Rainmaker chief executive officer Michael Silton.

"We are not trying to be a typical call center. What Rainmaker tries to do is change how people buy, and change how very well-known companies sell," Silton stresses.

Recognized for gaining the trust of the top 10 most respected brands in the world, Rainmaker combines the technology of the web with the quality

of telephone discussion to build strong customer relationships for its global clients. "Even more important," he says, "is the quality of person-to-person connectivity."

Yet, most of Rainmaker's clients have their own call centers around the world. Dell, for example, has its own call center at the Bay City in Manila.

These clients with global markets apparently acknowledge Rainmaker's cutting-edge expertise and advantage in its field. "We help big companies, like Dell, sell better and track more customers, and help those customers buy more over time," Silton says of Rainmaker's strength in revenue generation.

"Other companies try to save more money for their clients, whereas Rainmaker finds more markets, more customers and more money for its

clients," Silton explains.

Less than five months after the \$11.5-million acquisition of Qinteraction, Rainmaker Asia now accounts for more than 10 percent of Rainmaker Systems' global revenue output, and it's growing fast.

Qinteraction, the first BPO company to gain ISO 9001-2000 certification in Asia, had some 800 personnel occupying two floors in the BPI Center on Buendia Avenue. Rainmaker absorbed them all and immediately put in 350 additional seats.

The company continues to expand and now occupies another floor in the nearby Pacific Star Building. Its people interact with Australian and Asian customers by day, and North Americans by night.

"This is absolutely going to be the best quality call center in the world.

We're looking, not just for good quality talent in Manila, but world-class quality in Asia. What we've seen is the talent so strong here that I want to remove the limits of what is possible. There's just so much that we can do together. The talent that is here and the customers we bring make a wonderful combination," Silton explained.

To ensure quality, the company conducts training in language skills and how to interact with customers. "We'll spend more on training as we go forward," Silton said and cited the Filipino passion for taking care of customers as one of Rainmaker's reasons for choosing Manila as its Asian base.

Silton is the founder of Rainmaker, a NASDAQ listed firm whose sales and marketing solutions drive more revenues for its clients.



COLLECTING small boulders, gravel and sand has become a lucrative source of livelihood to most of the residents of Barangay Maipon, Guinobatan, Albay.

Gender poses ...

From page B4-1

buried by mudflow from Mayon Volcano and hundreds of people died and went missing.

She and her children now live in a house made of plastic sack-cloths pieced together at the back of the river dike.

For the village residents, gender does not serve as a barrier for the men and women who gather gravel, sand and boulders for a living.

Mejillano admits that at first, she had a hard time with a job usually done by men.

"But as I got used to it, my job became easier for me," she says.

"We do not see any problem doing this job. We just help each other here," Mejillano says.

She says she prefers the job in the river than to work as a housemaid, which would require her to leave her children.

"If I would be away, I would always worry about my children," Mejillano says.

She says many of the women here enjoy helping the men do their jobs.

"Especially when the trucks pick up our gathered sand, gravel and boulders," she says.

Mejillano says they are paid P100 to P400 for every truck-load of gravel, sand and boulders they gather, which are used as construction materials for houses and buildings.

The trucks from nearby construction companies go to the village to pick up what the villagers have gathered.

The payment for the construction materials, Mejillano says, is used to purchase things that their families need, especially food, which would last for two to three days.

Mejillano's sister Marilou Marilla, 38, also a stone gatherer, admits that what they earn is just barely enough for their basic family needs.

"Basta lang makaraos (As long as it could tide us over for the day). We are thankful on that alone," she says.

Although they are not happy that many houses were de-

stroyed during the typhoon, they are thankful that the demand for these construction materials increased, which also means added income for them.

"After Reming, our income really increased. We are really happy," she says.

"Almost everyday, a truck picks up our gathered stones here because many are fixing their destroyed houses," says Marilla, whose husband is also a stone gatherer.

Mejillano and Marilla, who try to gather at least 26 sacks of gravel daily, have no plans of leaving their home because "we have no other place to go and this is where our livelihood comes from," they say.

But they are always ready to evacuate if typhoons would endanger the lives of their families.

The sisters welcome the kind of rains not induced by typhoons because, according to them, this kind of rains bring more gravel to the river.

"As the water becomes deeper, we get more gravel," says Mejillano, who prefer to work when it is raining because "we do not feel tired compared to the days when the sun is out."

Everyday, at around 6 a.m., the sisters would go to the river to gather stones.

And before lunch, they would go back to their homes to cook lunch for their families.

After lunch, they would rest for a while and watch their favorite noontime TV show and then go back to the river to work again until late afternoon.

This is their daily routine, "and we are happy," the sisters affirmed.

After Reming, many of the residents of Maipon, especially the farmers, shifted to gathering gravel, sand and boulders.

But Marilla and Mejillano do not mind.

They say there are enough to gather so there is no problem if there are many of them doing the same thing.



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HIGH SCHOOL students from Villasis, Pangasinan, take part in the dance competition, one of the highlights of the annual Talong Festival.

RAY B. ZAMBRANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON



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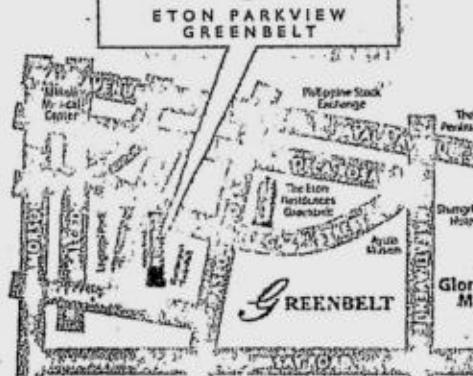
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What's 'pinakbet' without eggplants?

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

VILLASIS, PANGASINAN—What's pinakbet, the favorite vegetable stew of many Filipinos, without eggplants?

But aside from being the dish's main ingredient, eggplant is a versatile vegetable that can be cooked in many different ways, according to residents of this town, one of its biggest producers.

Villasis positions itself as a vegetable basket in eastern Pangasinan, but many farmers are focused on eggplant production as it is literally a "cash crop" that brings lots of money to them.

Eustacio Mencias, 57, says that he used to plant tobacco on his one-hectare farm but shifted to eggplant. He has never looked back since.

At one time, he harvested eggplants that brought him enough income to buy a jeepney.

Capital-intensive

Eggplant production is capital-intensive with P70,000 to P80,000 needed for one hectare for labor and inputs like seeds and fertilizer.

On good days, a farmer can harvest 4,000 kilos a day. At P20 a kilo, that means a farmer can earn P80,000.

A farmer starts harvesting two months after planting. Harvest is done every five days or so for six months. A hectare averages 30 tons or 30,000 kilos per production cycle, or some P300,000.

But not every planting season is good, Mencias says. "Sometimes, when other provinces produce much, the price plunges," he says. A worse scenario is when the price is below P5 a kilo.

For years now, Mencias has been

planting eggplant and through experience, he has learned many technologies that he readily shares with co-farmers.

Soil fertility

"Cultural practices based on experience are best when combined with new technologies," he says.

For instance, he learned that when the eggplant's growth is stunted, "it means the soil is already acidic from over-application of chemical fertilizer."

"The soil needs the micro-nutrient zinc sulfate to bring back its fertility," he says.

He also frowns at the overuse of pesticide. He says he uses it only when it is needed.

The Bureau of Plant Industry monitors the toxic residue from pesticide "and our eggplant always passes the test," says the municipal agriculturist, Cornelio Atchuela.

He says 12 of the town's 21 villages are involved in eggplant production. A total of 335 hectares are planted to the crop.

The soil in these villages is favorable to eggplant, which thrives on sandy loam and well-drained soil.

Casino-type

Atchuela says about 600 people are engaged in the production, but more residents are given work during harvest time.

Farmers plant several hybrid varieties, but the most preferred is the casino type—long and dark purple. This variety is prolific and resistant to diseases and has longer shelf life, Atchuela says.

Next month, the eggplant will take center stage when Villasis holds its Third Talong Festival, a happy occasion for farmers and residents to advertise their versatile vegetable to the world.

Soap-making seminar set in Angeles, Pampanga

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Soap-making can be a bubbly business once you know the basics.

Sign up as the Golden Treasure Skills Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on soap-making to be at College of Social Work and Community Development at Magsaysay Avenue, cor. Ylanan Street, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, on Dec. 15, Saturday and at the Angeles University Foundation Multi-Purpose Cooperative Hall at 1395 M. Ponce St., C.M. Recto, Angeles City, Pampanga, on Dec. 16, Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials and costing, entrepreneurship on how to start and maintain a business.

Participants will learn how to make liquid dishwashing soap, liquid hand soap, liquid all-purpose soap, bar detergent soap, herbal bath soap (papaya, kalamansi, cucumber, oatmeal, etc.) glycerin (transparent bath soap) powder soap.

Bonus courses include making liquid bleach, tile and bowl cleaner, fabric softener, car shampoo, tireblock, glass cleaner, air freshener, etc.

Participants will receive certificates of training right after the seminar. Lunch and snacks will be served. All materials will be provided.

For questions, please call (02) 421-1577; (02) 436-78-26; (02) 913-65-51; and (02) 433-64-13.

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- 2 shows pay tribute to Sanso /C2

LIFESTYLE

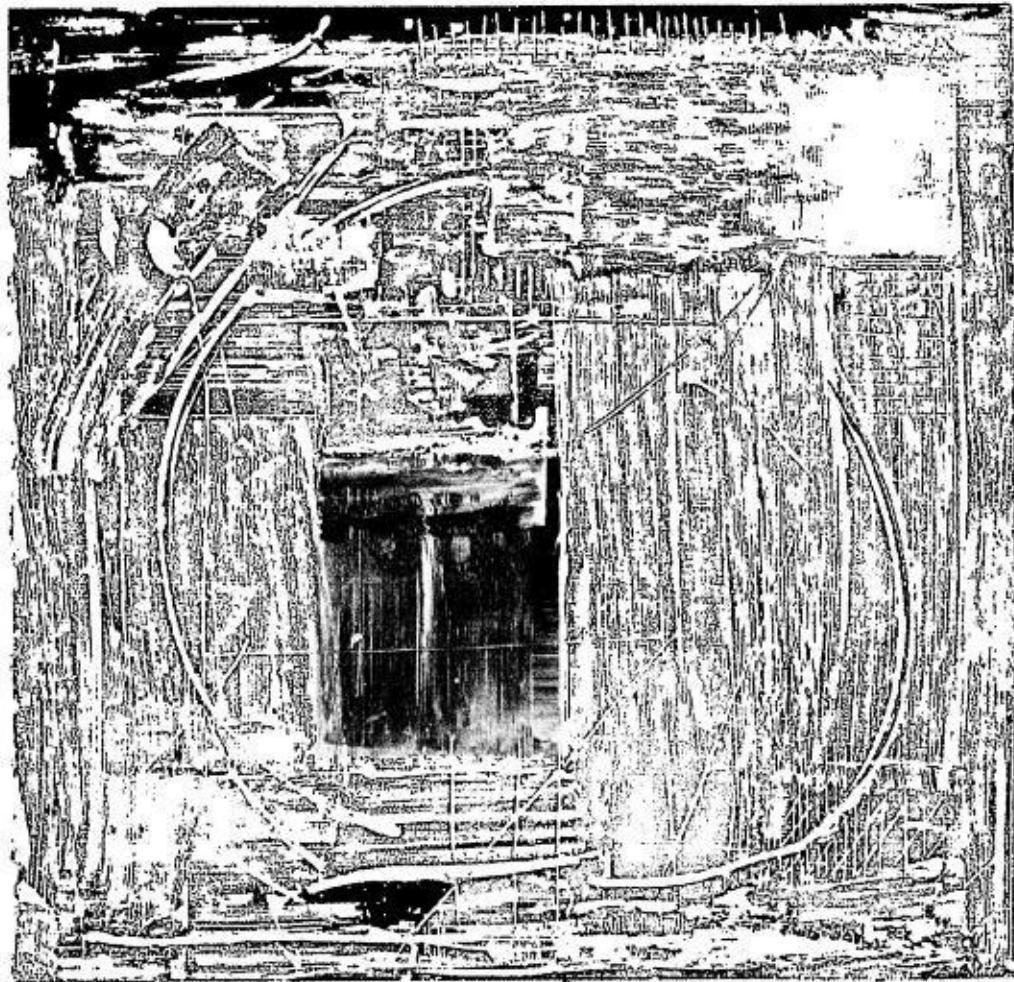
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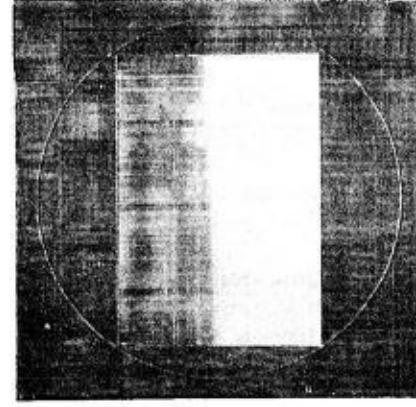
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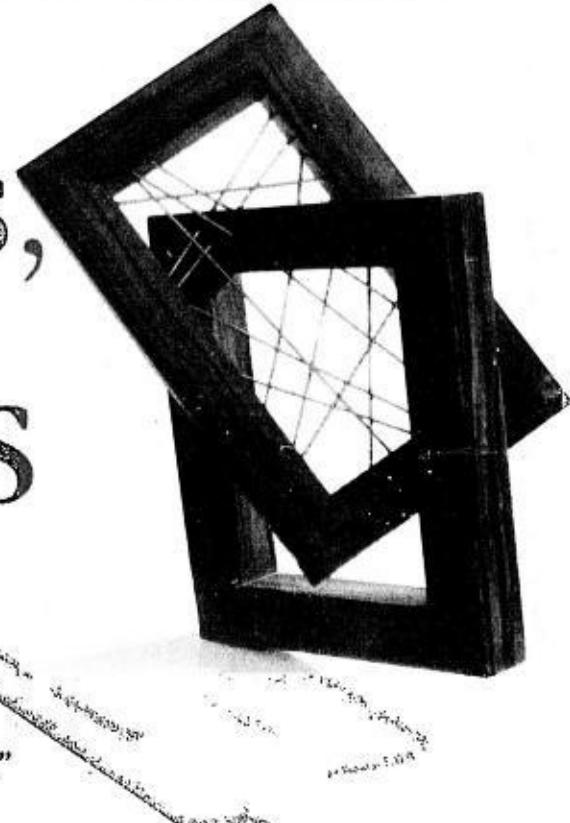
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Carating's monologues, Brumann's odes



"RECTANGULARS,"
by Hans Brumann



NORBERTO CARATING HAS created masterful strokes of acrylic on canvas that are at once the largest panoramas of the soul of Filipino culture and the throbbing palette of indigenous fabrics, famous sunsets, and the day-moving orbs on the skies and the earth. Carating disdains any ambition less than multi-layered themes and epic in scope.

Oftentimes he cuts them into square tiles

that send out soft flickers from moving shadows that recall panoramas of dawns on mountain tops and dusk time on the wa-

CARATING/C2



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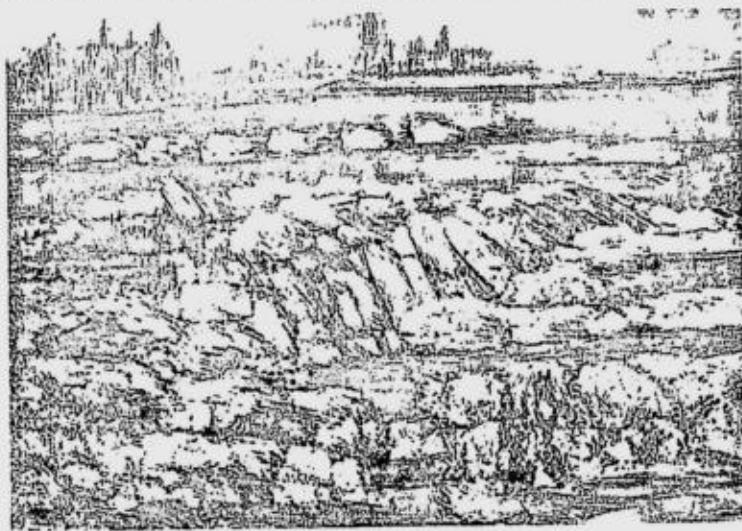
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Outside,
the nightly traffic
roars and rumbles.
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he will never catch.
A neighbor yells for
her son to come home.

You open a bottle
of Novellino.

Suddenly,
your place becomes
the most romantic
of settings.

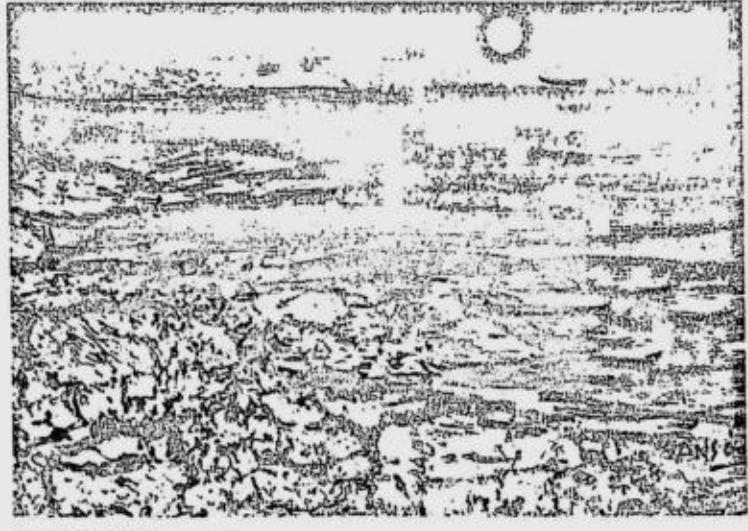
Novellino
One sip and love begins.



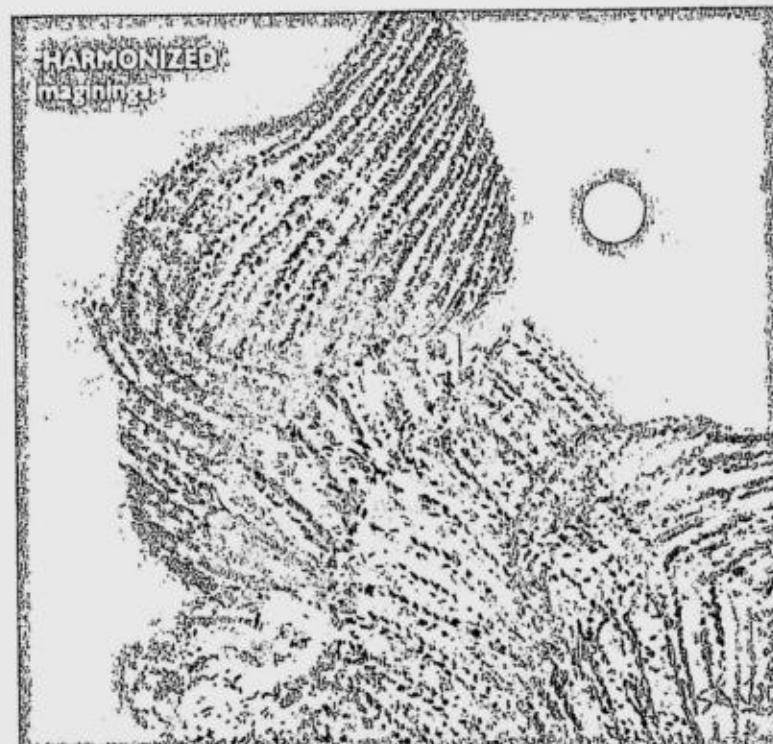
"GOLDEN Horizon"



"CALM Waters"



"RADIANT Sunset"



Two galleries hold tributes to Sanso

GALERIE FRANCESCA AND GALERIE Joaquin Podium will open the simultaneous tribute "Homage to Sanso," featuring 20 works each, on Dec. 18.

Included in the exhibit are two 6x6-inch paintings, "Harmonized Imaginings" and "With Wondrous Images." Beautiful seascapes such as the 6x8-in "Radiant Sunset" and 11.75x16-in "Golden Horizon" will also be exhibited.

Catalan-born Juvenal Sanso is widely considered an important artist here and abroad. In 1951, he won first prize in both the oil and watercolor competitions of the Art Association of the Philippines, and third place in the Shell art competition. He received art education at UP, UST, Academia di Belle Arti in Rome, and l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

In 1964, his work "Leuers" was adjudged Print of the Year by the Cleveland Museum of Art, making Sanso join the ranks of previous winners Henri Matisse and Salvador Dali. In the same year he held a major all-media one-man show at the Cleveland Museum of Art, as well as one-man shows at the prestigious Philadelphia Print Club and New York's Weyhe Gallery.

In 1966, Sanso had a 20-year retrospective show at the Makati Commercial Center. In 1974, a 25-year retrospective was held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. In 1976, in commemoration of the Manila World Bank and the International Monetary Fund summit meetings, a retrospective of some 1,000 of his works was made. In 1989, he made a milestone by doing six simultaneous exhibits in Manila at the

Metropolitan Museum, Lopez Museum, Ayala Museum, Center Cultural de Espejo, Alliance Française and Finale Art File. His works are part of the collections in over 40 museums all over the world.

In June 2006, President Macapagal-Arroyo awarded Sanso the Presidential Medal of Merit. Spanish King Juan Carlos I also gave him the distinguished Cross of Isabella for his outstanding accomplishments in the arts.

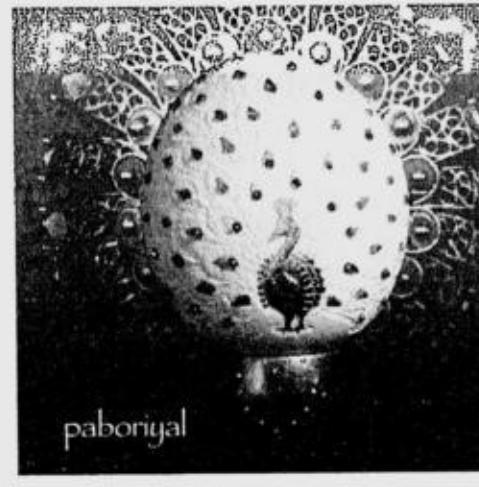
Preview starts Dec. 14.

Galerie Francesca is at Unit 2B-2C Treasure Trove at the third level of Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Call 8098495.

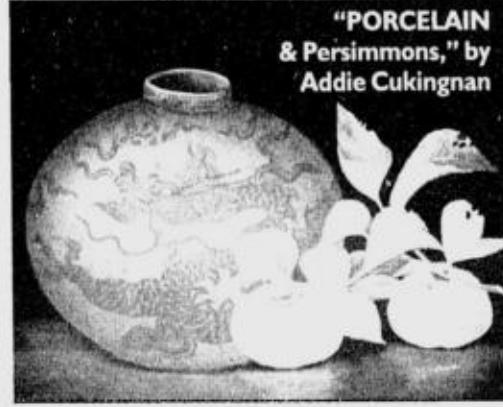
Galerie Joaquin Podium is at Unit B12-B13, Lower Ground Level, The Podium, ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City; tel. 6347954.

Art on ostrich eggs

DANNY RAYOS DEL SOL exhibits his unusual sculptures on ostrich eggs in the show "Whimsy," featuring meticulously hand-carved, cut and chiseled works. The show runs until Dec. 16 at Gallery Nine, 4/F, SM Megamall Art Walk. Call 9108016.



paborigal



"PORCELAIN & Persimmons," by Addie Cukingnan



"CHINESE Vendor," by Rey Ademis

China visions by Arte Pintura

THE ARTE PINTURA GROUP CELEBRATES its 10th anniversary with an exhibit, "Visions of China."

After traveling to China last year on a cultural-exposure trip, group members Addie Cukingnan, Rey Ademis, Azor Pacoguin, Abelardo Pasigado, Shirley Tan, Flor Baradi, Debbie Ann Tan, Tony Yusi and Rey Aurelio have come up with a compilation of works that depict the country and its people. A variety of landscapes, still-life and figure paintings show the versatility of the artists in the group and how they picture and interpret China with their brushes and palettes.

From the grandeur of the Great Wall to bustling market scenes and graceful blue porcelain and persimmons, the essence of China is captured through the artists' eyes and immortalized on canvas.

The exhibit runs Dec. 16-31 at Arte Pintura Gallery, 2/F, Kitaro Bldg., Shaw Boulevard corner Wack Wack Rd., Mandaluyong. Call 9117101 or 7266542.



By Constantino C. Tejero

STAINING, WHICH MOST OF US take as an imperfection, a blemish on an immaculate surface, had been elevated to art and perfected as technique by the Abstract Expressionists in the 1950s, along with the splattering, smearing, dribbling and dripping of paint.

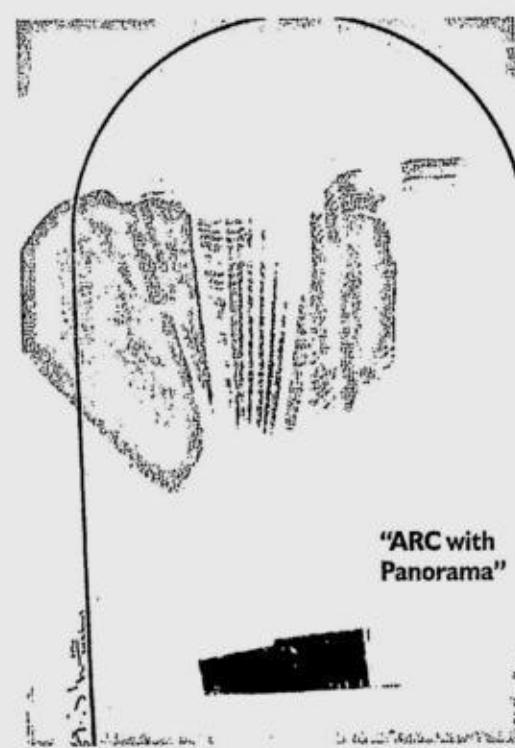
Staining predominates the latest abstraction of Nestor Olarte Vinluan in "From Künsterhaus & Other Recent Works," pieces in mixed media on canvas and on paper, recently in West Gallery at the Artwalk, L4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

A former dean of the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, Vinluan lately took up a residency program and traveled in Europe. When he returned with his latest works, one could see a sea-change had occurred in his art.

While we are familiar with his sunburst abstraction, that play with light and color that appears like a magnification of details from any painting by Monet, now we're seeing something that resembles Helen Frankenthaler's delicate abstraction of mountains and sea.

In fact, most of these pieces are supposed to be landscapes, or, as the artist calls them, "mountainscapes." He reveals they were inspired by what he saw and experienced in

The art of staining



"ARC with Panorama"

Salzburg, Mozart's birthplace, and how it is "so musical in many ways, from the surrounding River Salzach to the nearby mountainous areas."

To freely express that extraordinary experience, Vinluan had to deploy flowing lines, gestural strokes, layering of colors, collages and shaped formats so his works would be "closely related to the source of

inspiration." And to catch the immediacy of the experience, he had to use mostly paper as it was "not only handy but also a more direct medium compared to canvas."

Satisfied with the result, he notes that what one sees in his paintings resemble rivers, arches, forms he composed while listening to Mozart's music in the background.

And they, indeed, resemble Frankenthaler's abstracted landscapes using the staining technique—with major differences in nuance.

Since Frankenthaler applies splotches of oil paint on unprimed canvas, the colors seep into the fabric, which she can't control, thus resulting in more fluidity of form and delicacy of coloration.

Vinluan works directly with acrylic on paper, and as paper is not as absorbent as fabric, the effect is less fluid and delicate, the forms more controlled and the coloration bolder. One can see the result in pieces such as "Landscape (B)" and "Woman in Red Coat/River/Nirvana," which are typical of Abstract Expressionism.

The one that most closely approximates the spontaneity and delicacy of Frankenthaler's staining is that broad pale-blue undulation in the collaged piece "Arc with Panorama" and similar pieces in a series. Here we see Vinluan moving farther away from his impressionistic abstraction of the past, and closer to the more progressive

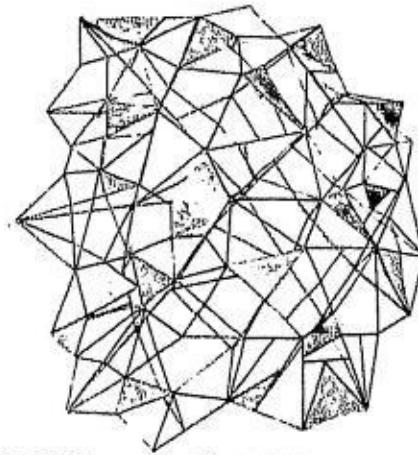


"LANDSCAPE (B)"

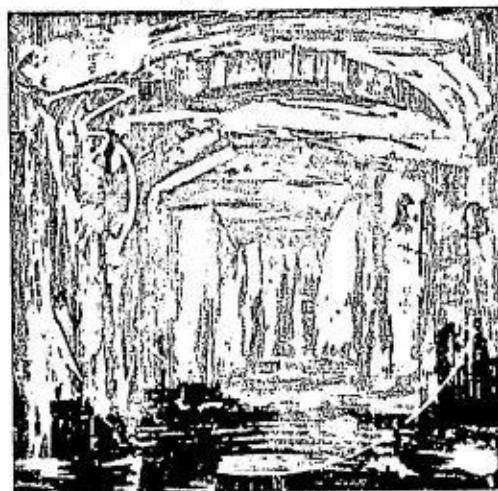
vein of modernist art. We think Vinluan is one of our major artists who are not as much appreciated as they deserve, along the likes of Rock Drilon, Roy Veneracion, Inday Cadapan, Alan Rivera. A closer look would reveal a richer art.

Carating's . . .

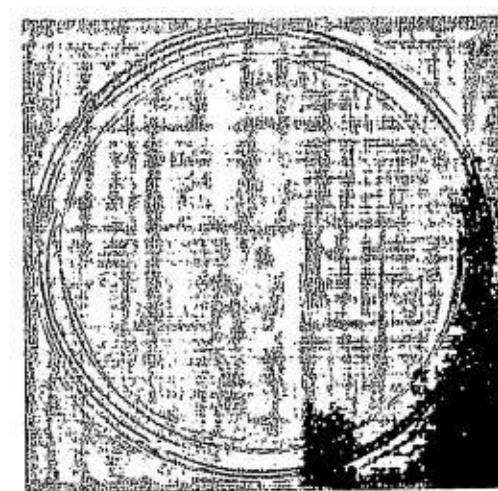
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"POLAR Storm," by Brumann

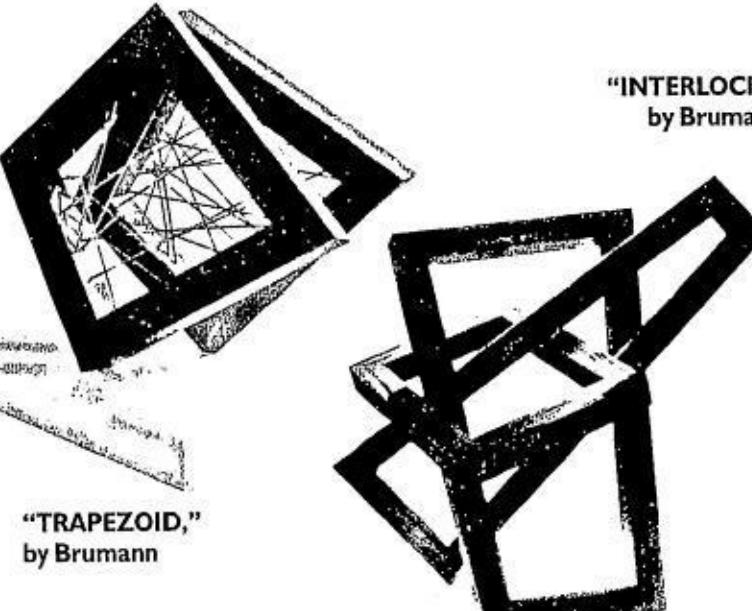


"ULLABYE," by Carating



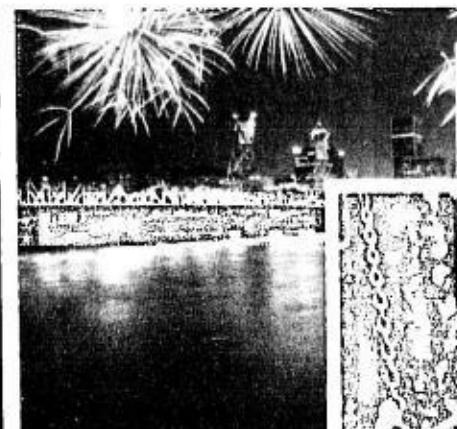
"Circles and Spirals," by Carating

"INTERLOCK," by Brumann

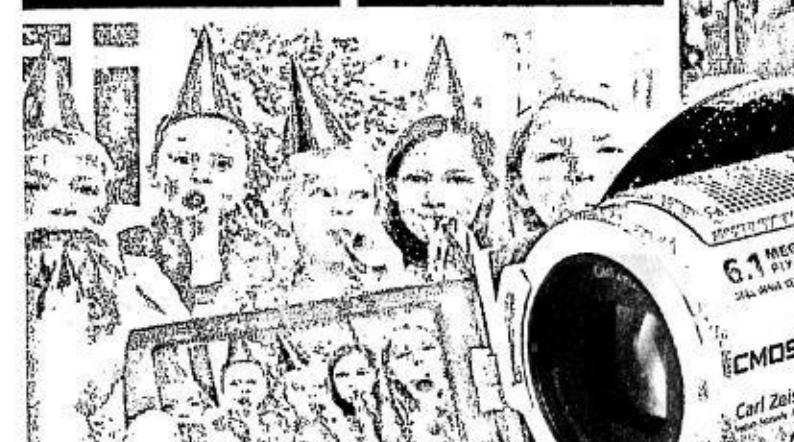


"INTERLOCK," by Brumann

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If you'd like to take a break from your shopping, drop by The Lounge and let the Mandaluyong Children's Choir serenade you with the most heartwarming Christmas carols. For the young and the young at heart, there's also the Trumpets Fairytale Ville Musical. So, for truly stylish shopping that covers everything from product selection, comfort and entertainment, The Podium is definitely the place to go.

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Dec. 23, 5pm

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PASKONG PINOY

Grand Panunuluyan to be staged



RAMON Obusan Folkloric Group in "Vamos a Belen" at the CCP Main Theater in December 2006

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

CONSIDER THIS SCENARIO: ST. Joseph and Mama Mary searching for an inn (Panunuluyan) transported to the present, our age of anxiety, a "relentless" age of travel and technology, wearing "folkloric-whimsical" costumes backdropped by silhouettes, and trailed by hundreds wanting to be part of the Filipino diaspora (Pinoys wanting to migrate as they seek a better life).

At every stop near or within the CCP (Cultural Center of the Philippines) Complex, Mary and Joseph are not so much turned away as actually comforted and even entertained, although an angel in the form of a Badjao is warning them to flee.

At the end, however, the couple is led to the front lawn of the CCP, where Mary "gives birth" amidst triumphant scenes of musical jubilation.

This is the updated version of the Panunuluyan, a cherished Christmas tradition in the Philippines, which will cap Paskong Pinoy (Dec. 18-22), a grand project of the CCP and the Manila Broadcasting Company which just might become an annual affair.

The event was announced in a recent press conference at the CCP's Silangan Hall presided over by CCP president Nestor Jardin and MBC president Jun Nicdao. The Philippine Madrigal Singers and 6 Cycle Mind band rendered (contrasting) musical numbers.

Pinoy Christmas

During the presscon, emcee Val Victa of MBC noted that Filipinos from abroad have reported that Christmas there is rather dry and different from a Filipino Christmas. ["Here," Victa said, "everything is all lighted up; we have the Simbang Gabi [Dawn Mass], etc ... And," he threatened, "now we will have the grandest Christmas celebration Pinoy-style."]

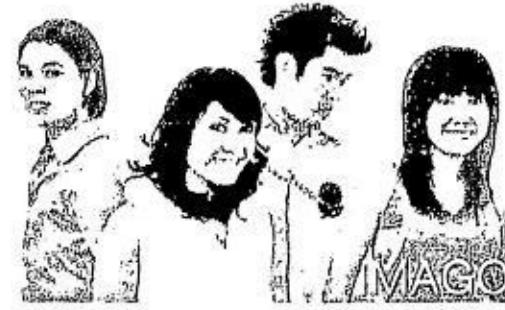
The spectacular Panunuluyan will begin at Baywalk, the north end of Roxas Boulevard. As it progresses, CCP director Chris Millado said, "there will be marching bands, *higantes* [giant mascots] dressed as shepherds, *carrozas* [carriages], lanterns, flutists, singers and dancers guiding Mary and Joseph to the *belen* [Nativity scene]."

There will be stops and receptions at nearby hotels, the Tanghalang Francisco Balagtas (Folk Arts Theater), and Harbor Square. The grand finale will be held in front of the CCP with a 1,000-voice choir, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra and PPO Brass Quintet, show bands, dancers, soloists and other artists. This is set for Dec. 18, 6:45 p.m.

"We would like participants to be 30 percent artists and 70 percent from the audience," Millado said.

Another key activity during the five-day festivities is a big choral competition among children's choir from many schools and barangays. The opening salvo will actually be held on Dec. 16, to coincide with the start of the Simbang Gabi, with a Baratiyo ng Pasko featuring reasonably priced

GRAND/D2



PASKONG Pinoy-Image



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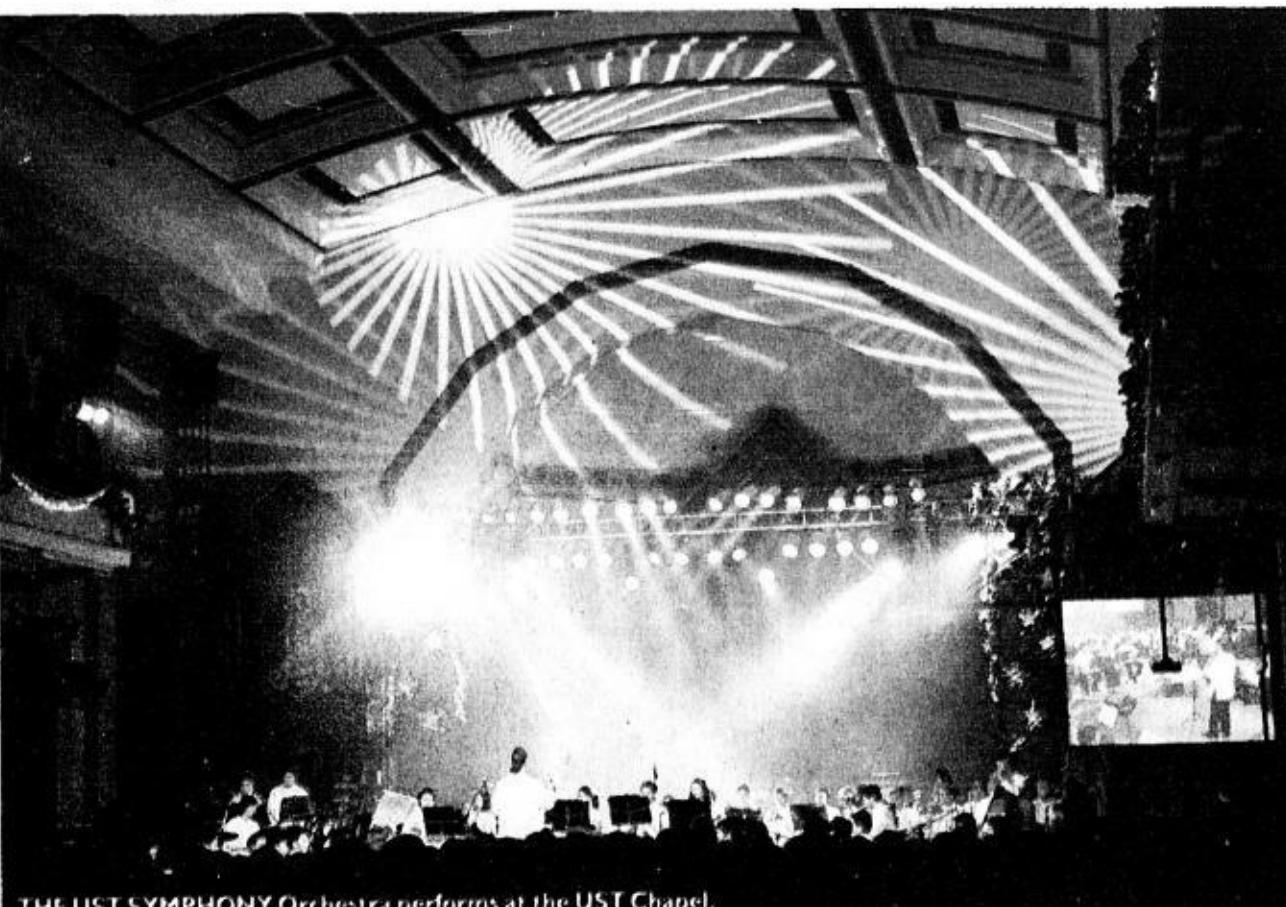
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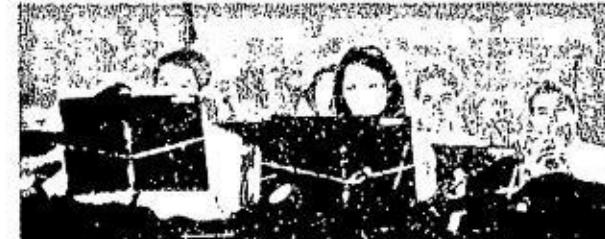


THE UST SYMPHONY Orchestra performs at the UST Chapel.

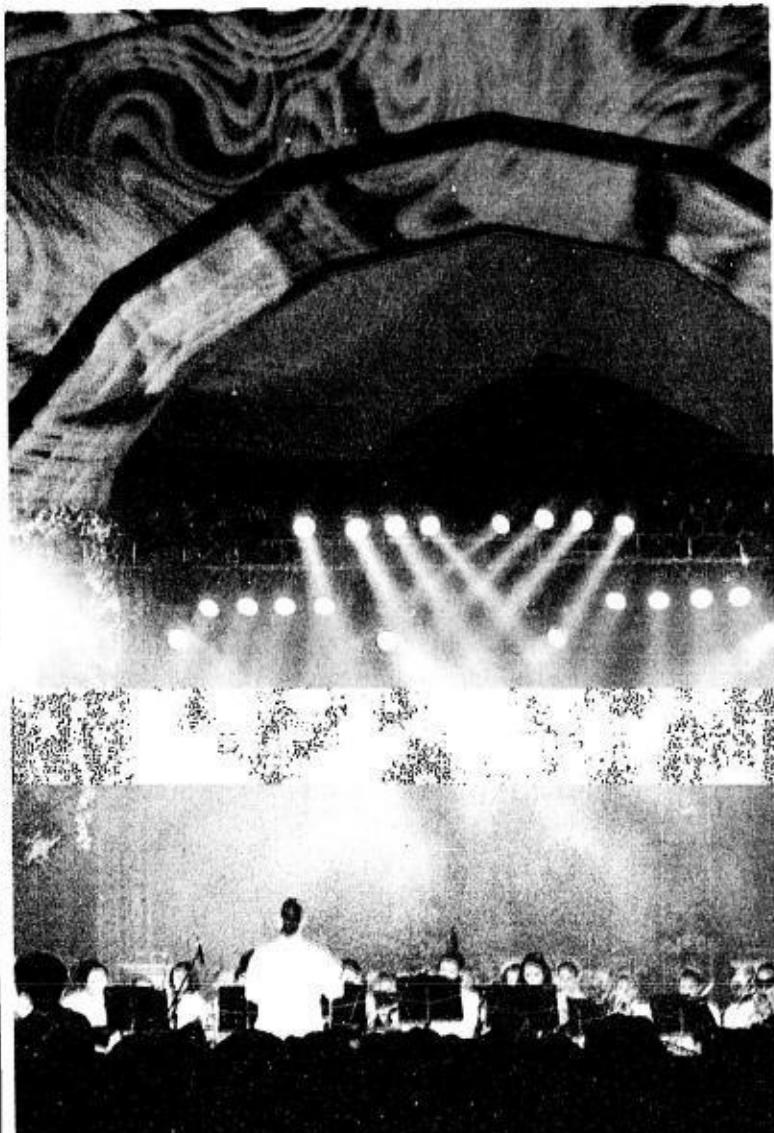


HISTORIC UST Main Bldg. gets bright Christmas grooming. Below, the UST Wind Orchestra.

'Symphony of Carols' featured the UST Symphony Orchestra and UST Singers



UST treats new papal nuncio to classical Christmas concert



THE ALTAR and dome of the Santisimo Rosario Church become a fresco of lights and images.

By Samuel Raphael Medenilla
Photos by Lorenze Buenaventura

CLASSICAL MUSIC EVOVED both the merriment and the solemnity of Christmas as University of Santo Tomas held its annual classical Christmas concert, "Symphony of Carols," at the UST Chapel (Santissimo Rosario Parish Church) over the weekend with the new Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Joseph Edward Adams, among the excited audience.

UST Rector Magnificus Fr. Rolando V. De la Rosa, OP, led UST officials in welcoming the Nuncio and the diplomatic corps.

It was a traditional Filipino Christmas with a Thomasian spirit as the concert displayed again the acclaimed musicians, singers and choristers of the Pontifical University, led by the UST Symphony Orchestra under Prof. Hermenegildo Ranera and the much-awarded UST Singers under Prof. Fidel Calalang (both conductors faculty members of the UST Conservatory of Music). Also conducting was Ariel Sta. Ana. Other performers were the UST Wind Orchestra, UST Guitar Quartet, Psalterion, UST Grade School Choir, and Conservatory of Music Chorus.

The musical ensemble serenaded the audience with a medley of classical and modern Christmas carols such as "Pasko Na Sinta Ko," "Kumukutukitap," "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," and "Joy to the World."

Clarissa Ocampo, a US-based mezzo soprano, was the featured singer. Maria Mene-



PAPAL Nuncio Joseph Edward Adams



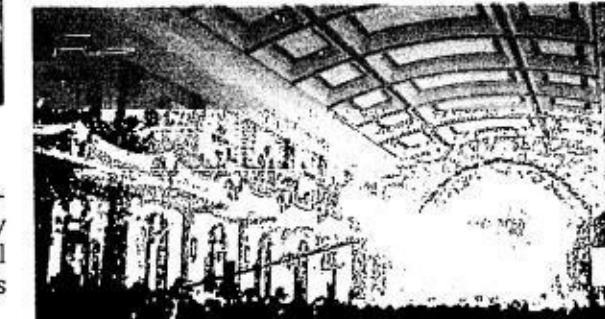
HERMENEGILDO Ranera conducts under floodlights

ses and Christian Paul Decamo sang contemporary Christmas songs such as "Happy Christmas (War is Over)," "It's Christmas All over the World," and "Do They Know It's Christmas?"

The concert will be televised as a Christmas special on ABC 5 on Dec. 24, 6 p.m.



UST SINGERS under choral master Fidel Calalang



CHAPEL spruced up for the concert.

Grand Panunulayan to be staged



PAROKYA ni Edgar



TRADITIONAL lanterns

From page D1

gifts, furniture, and indigenous crafts from all over the country.

"Many of the Filipino Christmas traditions are being ignored by the young, like the *parol* [lanterns] and the Panunulayan," said Jardin. "We want to revive and popularize these, especially among the young." And he added meaningfully: "We need more festive activities, especially with what is going on in our society today."



KAMIKAZE



PASKONG Pinoy will hold a bazaar

Choral concert highlights St. Stephen High School's classical music tradition

From page D4

a fun to see elementary students sing in a novelty beat, without sounding harsh, keeping their vocal lines well-placed and controlled. Even if scored in a contemporary-pop vein, the work retained its religious flavor.

Soloists and narrators did their tasks competently, namely: Gabrielle Pierra Ong, Keena Bernadine Monzon, Chelsi Angel Chua, Joanne Claire Tan, Rianne Kee, and Shan Mica Calijin.

The piece that followed was likewise clothed in a contemporary-pop idiom. Tom S. Long and Allen Pote, who both specialize in religious musicals, composed "Once upon a Parable." This time, selected elementary and preschool students combined choral prowess to essay the work with gratifying results.



MUSICAL pageant relives early history of the Manila Chinese-Filipino school.

As in the Alcala opus, a rock band provided assistance. Narrators included Pamela Suanco, Goodwin Chua, Roxine Lee and Genoel Teng. Soloists included

commissioned for the occasion, capped the concert. This time, symphony orchestral assistance was again enlisted.

The music was powerful and moving, bringing out the essence of the text. The work is coherently knitted with a broad dimension.

"Ama Namin" (Our Father) was a simple supplication that had an unassuming climax, rich and brilliant.

Tenor Conrado "Dondi" Ong III intoned the "Seven Last Words" with convincing integrity. He is gifted with promising voice and is an opera potential. (I strongly encourage him to get further vocal training to hone his technique).

The chorus is credited for keeping a perfect diction, dishing out the songs in well-articulated pronunciation of the Filipino language.

Film clips were shown as the music unfolded to enhance full appreciation. The choristers wore what looked like a death mask that one would think was inspired by the *moriones*. It was worn opposite the face to perhaps symbolize the Death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The piece ended with the glorious "Alezuya," a signature work of Dadap, one of the few remaining composers who write serious music with popular appeal.

Celia Yu Ong once more asserted her might on the podium. She wielded the baton with authority and capably read the scores with utmost sensitivity.

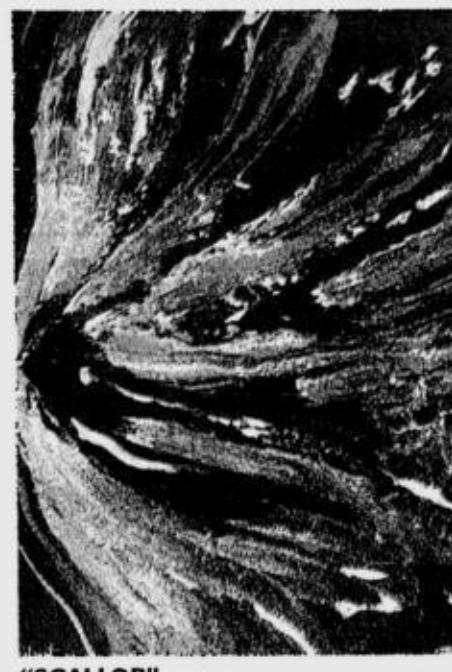
Definitely, she knows her métier as a choral conductor. We are gladdened she could come on important occasions to direct and conduct choral concerts, and

could only hope she could do this more often.

Of course, Chingoy Alonso is a veteran director. Himself a musician and a chorister, his mounting such a production easily yielded outstanding results. Altagir Alonso handled the audio-visual production.

Nelson Ang wrote the flowing narrative of the audio-visual presentation, apart from ensuring the success of the production as production manager. Robbie Hayden's choreography was ample. Rudy Boo's costume design displayed sartorial elegance.

All told, the production is a resounding success. We wish St. Stephen High School more success in its continued task of molding both the mind and spirit of its students, indeed a most welcome educational mission.



"SCALLOP"

Baluyut's "Ode to Water"

KARINA BALUYUT'S "ODE TO WATER" is running at the Galerie Raphael in Serendra. "Ode to Water" is Baluyut's third one-man show. It is a new direction taken by the artist in her "Journeys" series.

A board topnotcher in architecture, Baluyut has taken the artist's brush on a full-time basis and undertaken journeys of ancient Asian cities and capitals such as Ankor Wat in Cambodia, Ayutthaya and Bangkok in Thailand, Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, and the ancient Portuguese colony of Macau.

Her current journey has taken her to the world of water, particularly the sea. She now explores what her artist's eye can see in the underwater world. This includes interesting forms and shapes of shells, scallops, corals and other marine life.

For "Ode to the Sea," Baluyut tries to capture the emotions that she feels, pursuing her current interest in deep-sea diving. "These forms and shapes that I see, as well as the emotions that I feel, are what I try to capture in my paintings."

One of the original members of the Guevarra Group of Artists, Baluyut is influenced by Paul Klee, Marc Rothko and other abstract artists.

Her works are products of her own physical, emotional and psychological journeys.

Galerie Raphael is at Unit 2C-06 2/L, The Piazza Serendra Mall, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City (telefax: 8563034). For more information, visit www.galeriejoaquin.com



"FOUNTAIN"



A competition among children's choirs.

A competition among children's choirs.

Christmas is a season of sharing, and one favorite gift item that often tops the list during this holiday is ham. But with the abundance of ham products in every grocery store and supermarket, shoppers are puzzled as to which one is the best quality ham that can be enjoyed by the whole family.

A ham expert shares some practical tips on how to choose the real and honest-to-goodness ham that is deserving of the name holiday ham.

Technically speaking, there are two classifications of ham according to meat structure, says ham making expert Amy Cuna. These are the whole-meat ham and the restructured-ham.

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2007 **D3**

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Whole-meat ba ang Christmas Ham mo?

Cuna says the whole-meat ham is processed using one piece of whole muscle meat. It comes in two basic variants, namely the bone-in, such as the pork leg, and the boneless ham, made up of boneless part of pork.

Restructured ham, on the other hand, is made from lean meat trimmings from several pieces of meat that come from ham leg and shoulder parts of the pork. These trimmings are then processed into hams, which come in two forms.

Buyers, who are familiar with the different types of hams, look for whole-meat ham, which is considered superior over a restructured ham, both in terms of meat ingredient and process.

That is why whole-meat ham is considered the premium or more expensive ham, says Cuna.

Cuna says ham buyers must be able to distinguish a whole-meat from a restructured ham. "With whole-meat ham, you can see the

meat strands. *Makikita mo talaga yung hibla ng karne pag na slice ang hamon.* Whereas sa restructured ham, *pinong pino ang hamon pag na slice,*" she adds.

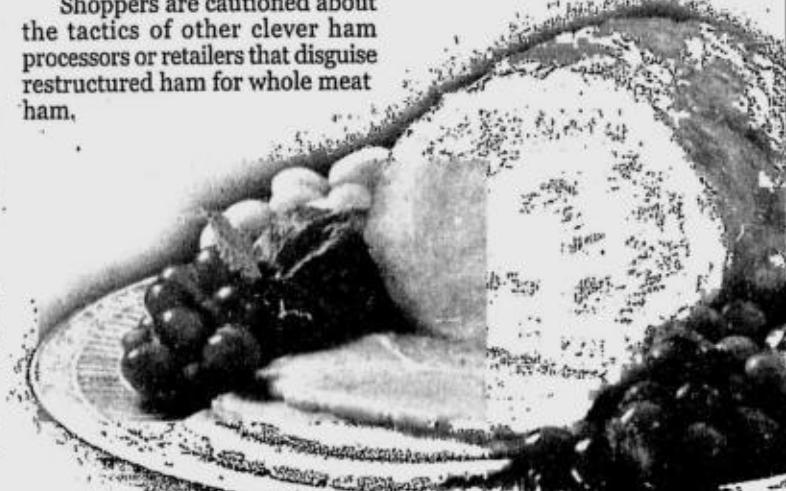
Take the case of CDO Holiday Whole-Meat Ham, which uses one piece of lean pork leg and undergoes ten-step process to provide that genuine taste of ham. Whole-meat ham is considered as the premium type because of its good looks, lean meat, and savory taste.

The CDO Holiday Whole-Meat Ham is the flagship Christmas ham product of the 32-year-old meat manufacturing company CDO Foodsphere Inc. To sustain the good quality of CDO Holiday Whole-Meat Ham, the company

makes sure that all materials, ingredients, and processes used are in accordance with internationally recognized standards.

Shoppers are cautioned about the tactics of other clever ham processors or retailers that disguise restructured ham for whole meat ham.

For more information about whole-meat ham processing, please call 294-1111.



Choral concert highlights St. Stephen High School's classical music tradition



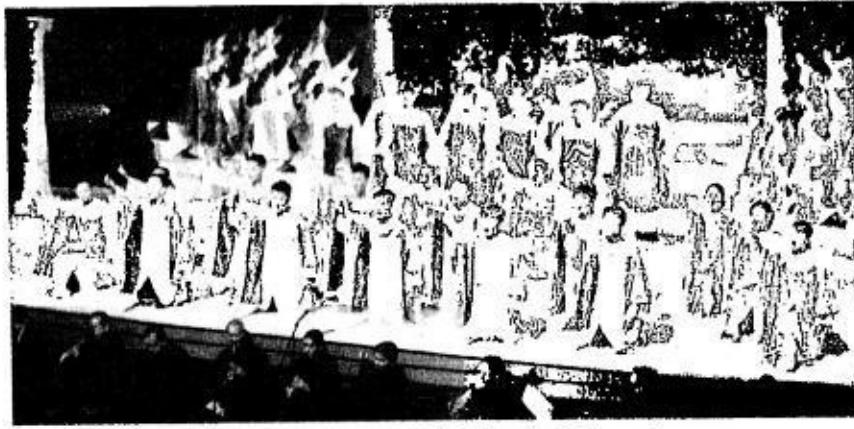
By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

ST. STEPHEN HIGH SCHOOL celebrated its 90th foundation year with a choral concert, "Images of Christ," recently at the school's debonaire auditorium. New York-based choral conductor Celia Yu Ong, an alumna of the school, was the music director.

The concert featured four choral cantatas that highlighted Jesus Christ's Birth, His miracles, parables, and Death that redeemed mankind. The concert afforded a timely moment of meditative reflection; indeed, a solemn thanksgiving for all the glorious nine decades of dedicated education pursued by the school whose foundation rests solidly on Christ.

Considered the first Christian Chinese high school in Luzon, St. Stephen High School has now become an important educational landmark on Masangkay Street in Manila. From graduating only eight girls in its early operation, it now counts some 34,000 alumni on its roster.

Judy Tan Go, the school's officer



CONCERT celebrates St. Stephen High School's 90th anniversary.

in charge, in her opening remarks said this achievement would not have been possible without the generous support of its administrators, faculty and staff, benefactors, alumni, and generous friends.

Fine choral singing is an attribute of the school. One recalls how its choir, conducted by Ong, garnered the grand prize in the 1976 Himig Lahi choral contest.

The program involved a preschool choir, Angelic Voices, composed of preschool pupils; a children's choir, Elementary

Chorale, composed of elementary pupils; a youth choir, Stephenian Chorale, composed of high-school students and alumni; and Adult Choir, made up of selected alumni, faculty and staff.

The trainers, the school's resident choirs' conductors, Patricia Lim, Melody Sia and Aileen Go, are credited for the fine choral production in terms of correct vocal placement that produced pleasing and relaxed warm tones, an utmost musicality.

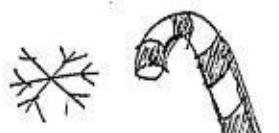
The opening number, "Emmanuel: The Birth of Christ," composed by Huang Chen Mou, appropriately set the mood. The music flowed gently in a hymn-like fashion that sparked with sublime greatness: quiet, meditative and sincere. The orchestration was full and imaginative, ably played by the SSHS 10th Anniversary Festival Orchestra.

Tonal balancing was tightly secured, and vocal intonation was impeccably secured. Tiu Pei Suan ably provided the narration, and soloist Erwin Lim intoned a rich bass-baritone. The choir was composed of selected high-school students and alumni.

Nilo B. Alcala's "Miracles of Jesus" provided an attractive, lively contrast. His work, commissioned for the occasion, perked with a contemporary gentle beat. It was such

Christmas is a time for merrymaking and lots of fun, but it's also the most times of the year. The end of the year is a time of buying gifts, creating lists, and getting ready for the holidays. Here are some tips to help you make the most of the season:

TO DO:



- Finish X'mas shopping
- Look for party costume!!!
- Wine for X'mas party
- Go to the bank

Wise tips to beat mas rush

ing. This way, you can shop relaxed and unrushed. What's more, salespeople are friendlier and can give you undivided attention even if they don't have a huge crowd to handle.

Come early if you're shopping

le to ends, to go first thing, avoid having your

ability

oved ends they

by ability will

date. able

as much as to avoid the frenzy, items that will

expenses such as possible. It will also remind them of your

unexpected gifts help if you set a weekly limit on the costs of gifts, preferably in the year.

and overseas limit on the costs of gifts, preferably in the year.

Create a Christmas budget

For many of us, after-effects of Christmas include huge credit card bills that can take many months to settle. But Christ doesn't need to pain in the pocket if you plan ahead early as you create a rough budget of anticipated Christmas costs. Include in budget all the things you're planning to buy, plus "hidden" items that will remind them of your unexpected gifts. It will also help if you set a weekly limit on the costs of gifts, preferably in the year.

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B'laan's moveable feast

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

A FEW YEARS AGO, SARANGANI, the southernmost province in mainland Mindanao, near General Santos City, was emerging as an ecotourist destination. And there was talk that the US, which had invested a lot in the area, wanted a secret military base there.

I recall the marvelous blue skies of the province and the showpiece that is Sarangani Bay with its deep harbor, clear waters, unspoiled beaches, coves, and marine life. In one ranch high up, overlooking the bay, the cattle would obediently go back to their pens at dusk.

In the mountains of Sarangani live the B'laan, an indigenous ethno-linguistic group who are, as one spokesman put it, "as distinct from their neighboring Bagobo and T'boli as the Tagalog are from the K'ampampangan or the Ilonggo are from the Waray."

And in the village of Lamlifew, in a hilly sitio in the town of Malungon, Sarangani, will soon rise what is envisioned as a Lamlifew Village Museum. At the moment, however, it is an empty thatch and bamboo structure larger than the huts of the B'laan-speaking community in Lamlifew.

On Dec. 3, the "Lamlifew Village Museum" was launched with an exhibit at the fourth floor of the National Museum (Museum of the Filipino People) in Manila. The ribbon was cut by National Museum Director Corazon Alvina, curator Constance de Monbrison (of Paris), and Sarangani Governor Miguel Dominguez.

There were seven B'laan residents of Sarangani who were special guests, and who charmed the large audience with their chants, hip-swaying dances, and music.

These were Maribeth Farnazo, Helen Lumbos and her mother Herminda Lacna, Rosalinda Bansilan, Renato Salway, and Edcel Pontong. Farnazo, Lumbos and Lacna founded the Lamlifew Tribal Women's Association and initiated the museum project. Bansilan heads a group of mat weavers, Salway is an upland rice farmer, and Pontong works with Sarangani's Indigenous People's Development Program.

Modest but instructive

The exhibit is modest in scale, and includes mounted texts and caption stories dealing with B'laan life and culture, with emphasis on upland rice agriculture. There are photos of spear-wielding hunters and women with distinct hairstyles, and exquisite ikat-dyed cloth, beadwork, and mother-of-pearl work which fetch an exorbitant price in the antiques market.

Like Hemingway's Paris, the B'laan exhibit is a moveable feast. The expensive antiques belong to private collectors and will be returned to them in a few days. "It is important to note that the younger B'laan of Lamlifew have not seen these materials," says writer-curator Marian Pastor Roces. On the other hand, the photos and initial texts prepared for the Manila launch will be shipped to Lamlifew, and will form a nucleus for the Village Museum.

These will be the focus of discussions and narrations ("and perhaps singing," adds Roces) among the villagers, and data will be compiled from within the community, and at their own pace.

As one understands it, the project will help the B'laan of Lamlifew preserve and relearn their dying arts and traditions and, in the process, help bridge the gap among the B'laan generations.



LIFE STYLE

B'LAAN blouse

B'LAAN woman playing native guitar



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See their Pixel Perfect snapshots at the 2nd floor (in front of Sentro) and 3rd floor, Fun Dining Area (near National Sports Grill), Greenbelt 3. It's all happening from December 6-11, 2007. With Samsung, it's not that hard to imagine.

SAMSUNG

Raising the level of online gaming

By Raquel P. Gomez

THE CURRENT BOOM IN ONLINE GAMING in the country credits its existence and expansion to Level Up!, the very first online game publisher in the Philippines which introduced the so called MMOGs or massively

multiplayer online games six years ago.

Level Up! is currently the leading online game publisher which provides online games to 7.3 million Filipino gamers registered at its website with online games usage by these gamers peaking up to 40 mil-

lion.

Level Up! has dedicated reach to 8,800 internet cafes and the number of i-cafes accessing Levelupgames.com continue to increase. Four Level Up! multiplayer online role playing games (MMORPGs)

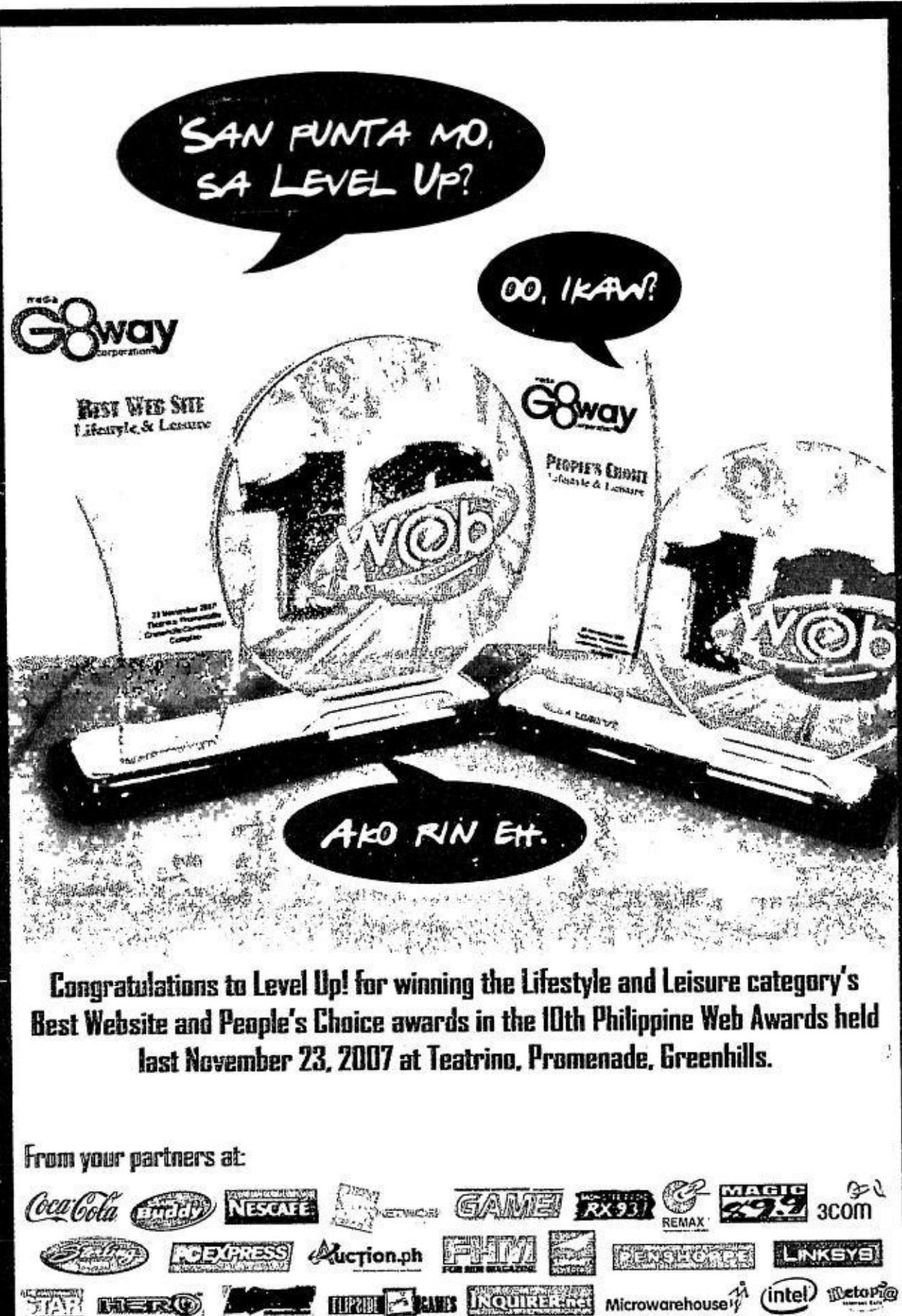
are the most played online, led by Ragnarok, with Perfect World, RF Online and Flyff behind it.

Every year Level Up! hosts the biggest gathering of online gamers in the country, where attendees number to thousands to

witness, enjoy and compete in online games. The company also expanded to India and Brazil, bringing its MMORPGs to the youth market of these countries.

Indeed, with Level Up!'s efforts and the contribution of the relatively young online gaming industry, a big community has already been created and a new market, which is the young generation, has been exclusively captured.

Ben Colayco, Level Up! chief operating officer credits the boom not only to the pioneering efforts of his company to bring online games here, but also to the



Congratulations to Level Up! for winning the Lifestyle and Leisure category's Best Website and People's Choice awards in the 10th Philippine Web Awards held last November 23, 2007 at Teatrino, Promenade, Greenhills.

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BEN Colayco, Level Up! chief operating officer



'GAMEBOSS' Colayco during his presentation about Advergaming

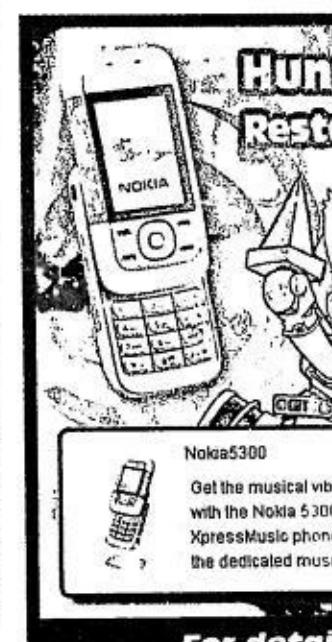
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Condensed 'Swan Lake' reenergizes ballet staple

By Elka Krystle R. Requinta
Contributor

STAGING THE DEMANDING "Swan Lake" for the nth time, Ballet Manila seemed to have found the formula to make tired audiences appreciate anew the traditional ballet fare.

Ballet Manila's condensed version is that of their long-time Russian guest choreographer Sergey Vikulov. It was patterned after the Marius Petipa/Lev Ivanov choreography first shown in 1895 by the internationally acclaimed Maryinsky Ballet (Kirov) at St. Petersburg, where Vikulov is ballet master.

The highlights are stylishly maintained, but Vikulov resurfaces the original tragic ending: Prince Siegfried and Odette committing suicide (sensitive eyes would prefer "lovers reunite after death in apotheosis")—and manages to artfully illustrate it (the lovers ride on a crane going upward while sprinkling sparkly star-shaped confetti), to the delight of the young audience.

The usual Odette/Odile would be tall and long-limbed to easily relate her with a swan's



LISA Macuja-Elizalde is Odette/Odile and guest artist Maxim Chashchegorov is the dashing Siegfried.

graceful long neck and big movements.

"Ballerina of the masses" Lisa Macuja-Elizalde may not have the preferred body type for the role, but she was able to embody the exhausting (and excruciating?) dual roles Odette/Odile well, complete

with 32-plus *fouettés en tournant* she whipped out in the *grand pas*.

Macuja-Elizalde successfully gave off the illusion of length—all while staying sharp (and looking younger!) in her movements. It was as if the pre-recorded Tchaikovsky music was the one dancing to her tune.

She showed dramatic sensitivity throughout: a tragic swan princess as Odette in Acts 2 and 4 and an aggressive evil temptress as the impostor Odile in Act 3.

It was apparent, though, that she was trying to support herself in some scenes. It seemed her dashing Siegfried, guest artist Maxim Chashchegorov, had inadequate partnering skills.

Nevertheless, the towering 24-year-old Russian with piercing blue eyes shone in his solos, vacuuming people's attention to his light and easy grace, virtuoso jumps, and princely demeanor.

Alternating as Odette/Odile are Mylene Aggabao and Marian Faustino, while Rudy de Dios and Nazer Salgado dance as Siegfried.

The synchronized swan corps glowed in white tutus. Popular ballet studio owner Perry Sevidal reportedly described them as "[photocopy] machines."

The well-stretched extensions, height of jumps, even the languid tempo of their *port de bras* were so in sync and awe-inspiring that it was quite difficult to ignore their contribution to the success of the production.

Ballet Manila's 12th season continues with "Pinocchio" on Dec. 14-16, and "Le Corsaire" on Feb. 15-17, 22-24.

New works from PBT

Philippine Ballet Theater's resurrected variety showcase, "Palikhayaw (Paglikha ng Sayaw)" at the CCP Main Theater, is no stringent "Giselle," much less a "Swan Lake."

But the pomp and bombastic display of brio and skill from the

dancers is welcome, as well as the introduction of highly entertaining pieces by young choreographers.

Paul Morales' "Mariposa Pictures" was a crowd-pleaser. Its hilariously endearing reference to the coy romantic Filipino couple from the classic Pinoy black-and-white films in the '50s and '60s films warmed the chilly theater on opening night.

Brezhnev Larlar's "Movements" was provocative. Scantily all-black-clad women and guys wearing shredded denim pants is nothing new, but the clash of the traditional (ballet barre and pointe shoes) and unconventional concept (aka free movement) was given a new take and a very mature interpretation.

The dancers, most of whom are minors from Body Pointe Ballet Center and Teatro de Baile de Cavite, are made to look like professionals by Larlar, who is artistic director of both schools. The boys and girls are very effusive in affecting strength, skillfully—and aggressively—using the barre to their advantage.

One predicts that these gifted young artists will surely be in major ballet companies soon.

Ronilo Jaynario's "Tres Bravos" was a three-part neoclassical piece which generally showed off the current dancers of PBT, where Jaynario danced for 10 years. The simple allegro steps and flooding with canon movements were cleanly executed by nimble ballerinas and danseurs.

Of the three world-

renowned tenors who accompanied Stanley Cafiete's nostalgic "Opera & Ballet," Luciano Pavarotti seemed to have gotten more spotlight, owing, of course, to the singer's recent demise.

Cafiete, faculty member of Pink Toes Dance School, was successful in recreating the romance of Paris without the full moon. And the dancers, dressed in what seemed like "blinged-up" nightgowns, executed flowing movements that were anything but slumberous.

PBT's artistic director Gener Caringal provided that night an opening breather from "all things young" with "Likha."

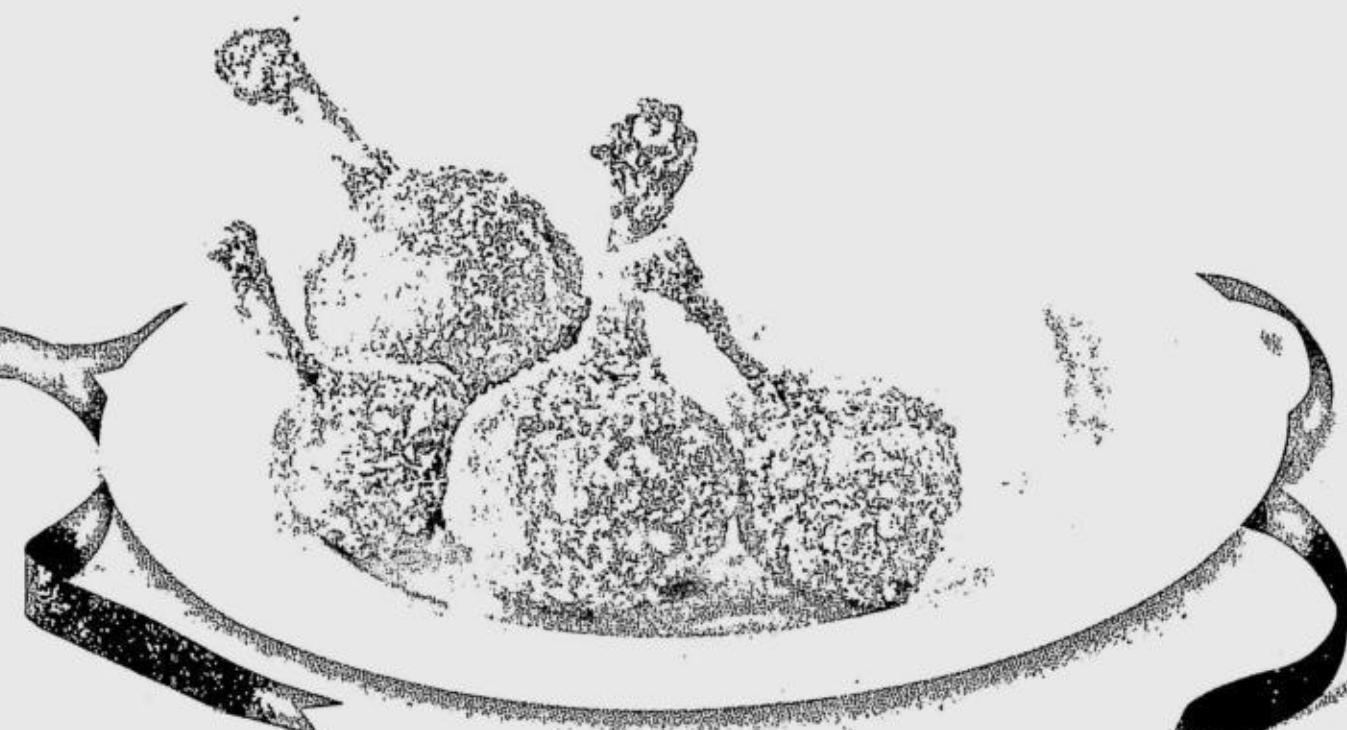
Inspired by the Philippine folk tale "Malakas at Maganda," Caringal's big tribal movements emphasized lines and contours and gave off an ethnic vibe that was further emphasized through songs by the University of the East Chorale.

CHASHCHEGOROV
is a towering
24-year-old Russian
danseur based
in Munich.



ONE of the virtuoso passion scenes in "Swan Lake"

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always find the
way to my
heart.



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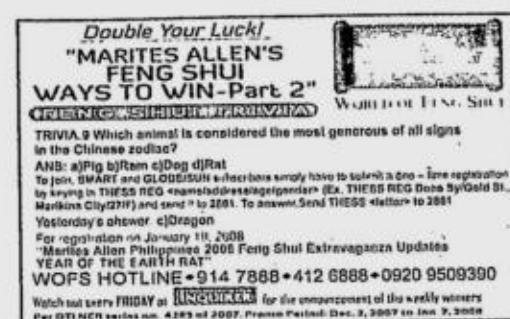
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The Aranetas in Philippine history

By Miguel A. Bernad S.J.
Contributor

WHEN AGUINALDO formed his first cabinet as President of the newly declared (but short-lived) Philippine Republic, one of the members of the cabinet was Grégorio Araneta as secretary (or minister) of justice. Decades later, when Magsaysay became President, his cabinet included three sons of Grégorio Araneta. The three were Salvador for agriculture, Antonio for finance and Vicente as head of a development-related agency, ACCFA.

That is an interesting coincidence that illustrates two things: first, the prominence that the Araneta family had achieved, and second, the dedication to national and civic affairs that the Aranetas have always shown.

A coffee-table type of book has just been published about the Araneta family (or part of it) written by a member of that family, Maria Lina Araneta Santiago, a daughter of Salvador and a granddaughter of Grégorio Araneta. We shall refer to it as the Santiago book.

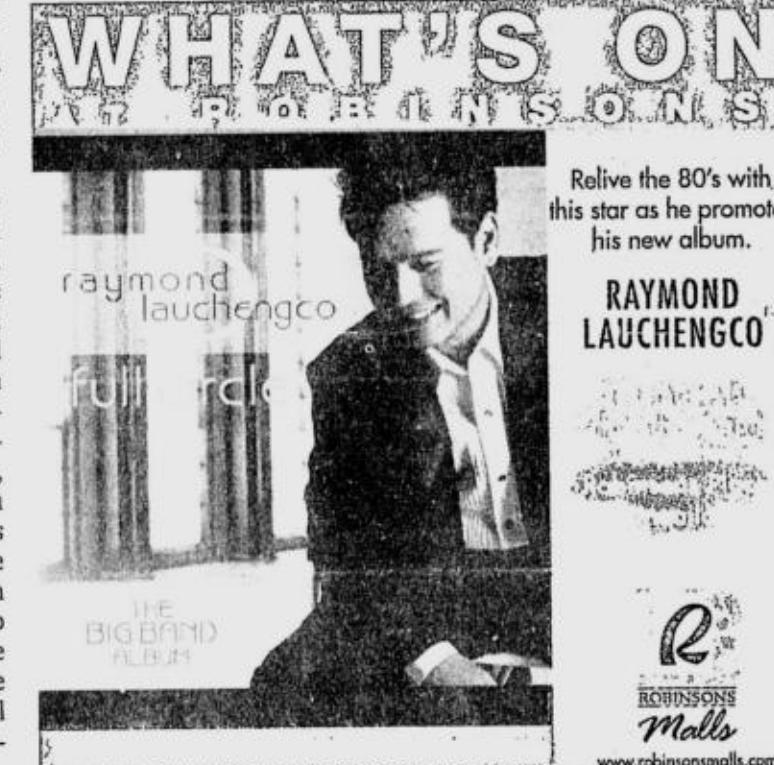
The Aranetas trace their origin to a government functionary during the Spanish regime assigned to Zamboanga. He had two sons, hence the two branches of the family. One branch settled in Negros, a prominent member of whom was General Juan Araneta who played a leading role in the establishment of the short-lived independent Negros Republic. Grégorio belonged to the branch that settled in Molo, Iloilo and later lived on R. Hidalgo Street in Quiapo, Manila. At the age of 11, he was enrolled at the Ateneo de Manila where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree with high honors and then studied law at Santo Tomas. As a young lawyer he worked in one of the more prominent law firms. By the time of the Malolos Congress his legal skill must have been well known, hence his ap-

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Santiago's book is entitled "Araneta: A Love Affair with God and Country." Their love affair with the country is obvious. They valued everything Philippine: Philippine culture, Philippine arts, Philippine history, Philippine languages

later as attorney general and finally as the first Filipino member of the Philippine Commission that governed the country.

Gregorio and his wife, Carmen Zaragoza, had many children. It would have been helpful if the Santiago book had given a clearer and more complete enumeration of the entire family. As it is, several members are never mentioned and we are left guessing as to the number. In the case of the

women, it would have helped to mention their husbands.

The oldest son was killed by the Japanese early in the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines. Salvador, like his father, became a lawyer, with the added advantage of an extra year's study at the Harvard Law School. He became a prominent member of the Constitutional Convention that drafted

THE ARANETAS/F2



In Japanese, the word Jozu means skillful. As masters of their craft, Japanese chefs rely on their skill with ingredients and their kitchen arsenal to win over those who come to partake of their creations.

And like a samurai has his sword, a chef's most important weapon is his knife. Whether winning battles or creating dishes, the Japanese have set high standards for their blades of choice. No knife is exactly alike, just as every samurai sword is one of a kind. And yet no matter how sharp and supple, a sword or a knife is only as good as the one who wields it.

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Diplomat's autobiography recalls 1986 revolution



Institut Santre's Managing Directors Joy Siao and Stephanie de los Santos with one of their endorsers, PLDT's Butch Jimenez Jr.

INSTITUT SANTRE NOW OPEN for WOMEN

Here's some great news for ladies looking to show off their winning form: Institut Santre, the slimming center that prides itself on shaping men of authority, now offers their services to women, too.

Institut Santre had previously offered its customizable slimming programs exclusively to men, much like its principal, Hong Kong's renowned Mence Body Toning International. But due to popular demand—particularly, from the wives of their male clients—Santre decided to open its doors to females.

Not only that, Santre has even opened a private wing just for the ladies. This is in keeping with Santre's strict standards when it comes to protecting their clients' privacy.

The opening of its services for women, as well as the private wing, was formally made known to the public during a press launch held last October 11. It's all part of Santre's latest efforts to reveal itself to the public; up until recently, the slimming center had not been very visible in the media in terms of promotion. But now Santre wants people—and this time, women in particular—to know that they can get the body they've always wanted without resorting to diet pills, fad diets, or surgery.



Institut Santre's Stephanie de los Santos and Joy Siao with Dr. Florencio Lucero, a well-respected plastic surgeon.

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THE BOOK "AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AMBASSADOR RAFAEL A. GONZALES—Diplomat, Artist & Judo Master" was recently launched at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

The book's most moving part is how Gonzales, along with Ambassadors Ernesto C. Pineda, Juan A. Ona, Josue A. Villa, Susan O. Castrenze, and other officers, got the personnel of the DFA, the foreign service and the Philippine missions abroad to pledge their loyalty to Corazon Cojuangco-Aquino at the height of the 1986 revolution, thus prodding states to recognize the revolutionary government.

The book shows the courage and leadership of the DFA and foreign service. President Marcos could have easily crushed the

revolt. He claimed that he had won the elections and was the legitimate president. Without the statement of support for Aquino from the DFA and foreign service, the Aquino regime would not have even qualified as a de facto government, for Marcos had been sworn in as president right in Malacañang, the seat of power.

"As far as I know, the DFA is the only ministry whose leadership formally accepted the authority of President Aquino," Ona is quoted in the book as having said.

The DFA statement led to the government of President Aquino to be accorded the status of a de jure government.

Guests of honor during the launching were Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo and former President Fidel V. Ramos.

AMBASSADOR

Rafael A. Gonzales with
lawyer Bert
Guevarra,
businessman
Kishu Doromal,
Gert Gust of the
International
Labor
Organization,
and
Ambassador
José Lino
Guerrero



FOREIGN Secretary Alberto G. Romulo and Ambassador Gonzales cut the ribbon. Around them are lawyer Dong Salud, businessman Jimmy Chua, and Ambassadors Raul Goco and Rora Tolentino.

The Aranetas in Philippine . . .

From page F1

the 1935 Constitution. As a member of Magsaysay's cabinet, he was a strong advocate of economic development.

Not mentioned in the book was a well publicized debate regarding the policy that should receive top priority. Salvador Araneta advocated agricultural development; others advocated rapid industrialization. Not knowing which side to favor, Magsaysay called upon a Jesuit, Fr. Pacífico Ortiz, to decide the issue. That was an important issue and I wish it had received an extensive treatment in the book.

The Magsaysay cabinet soon lost the services of all three of the Aranetas, a loss to the country.

Not mentioned or at least not given prominence was Salvador Araneta's later contribution to Philippine education. He founded the Araneta University, which specialized at first in agriculture and veterinary medicine. Unlike other secular private universities which were really business enterprises bringing much profit to the owners, the Araneta University was a foundation, or to use Don Salvador's own term, an "obra pia." He did it in order to obtain the Papal Nuncio's permission to reserve the Blessed Sacrament in the University chapel.

In this connection I might perhaps be permitted to mention a personal experience which gives an added insight into Dr. Salvador Araneta's interest in promoting a better knowledge of Philippine culture. It had a humorous beginning. I got a telephone call from a lady who said that the Vice President wanted to talk to me. I said, "The Vice President? You mean of the Republic?" She said, "No, of Araneta University." The vice president asked if he could come to see me. I told him I would be delighted. (I was then living in the Jesuit residence attached to the Ateneo de Manila.)

He came, he said, to convey a message from Dr. Salvador Araneta, at that time residing in Canada. Dr. Araneta wished to establish at the Araneta University a chair in Philippine studies, and Dr. Araneta wanted to know if I would be willing to be the chair's first occupant. I was of course grateful to be thus honored, but my commitments at the Ateneo prevented acceptance of an otherwise attractive offer.

It is understandable that in writing this book Ms. Lina Araneta Santiago would focus on those members of the family closest to herself, namely her grandparents, Don Gregorio and Doña Carmen and her parents, Dr. Salvador and Doña Victoria. She does not refer to them by these titles but by the family nicknames:

Don Gregorio is always referred to as Lolo Goyo.

There is prominent mention in the book of Fr. Francisco Araneta, the youngest among Don Gregorio's sons. Since I have written extensively of him elsewhere, let me just say here that Fr. Araneta was among the finest men I have known. If I were to describe him by one word, the word would be "genius."

But there is much else about this important family that would merit mention. To cite one example: The collections of Philippine paintings and of Filipiniana books gathered by Luis Araneta would merit study. Much also could be said about the nationalistic activities of the younger generation, especially the sons of Don Gregorio's daughters. I would also have liked to know more of the civic activities of Vicente and Antonio Araneta. Of the women, the daughters of Don Gregorio, I know very little. But my impression is that they belong to that admirable type of woman who keeps a low profile but whose work for society is considerable.

Mrs. Santiago's book is entitled "Araneta: A Love Affair with God and Country." Their love affair with the country is obvious. They valued everything Philippine: Philippine culture, Philippine arts; Philippine history; Philippine languages.

Their love affair with God may be less obvious but was no less true. Don Gregorio was a staunch defender of the Church and of Christian principles at a time when there was a good deal of anticlericalism. We have mentioned Dr. Salvador's making the Araneta University a pious foundation in order to obtain the privilege of reserving the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel. The Araneta farm near Novaliches was for many years the home of the Chinese Jesuits who had been expelled from Communist China. Many of the other members of the Araneta family were active supporters of various religious enterprises.

The Aranetas were among the many Filipinos who were disappointed that the worldwide Moral Rearmament Movement, which seemed to be a good instrument for the moral regeneration of the country and the government, did not receive the approval of the Cardinal Archbishop of Manila who (doubtless for valid reasons) strongly disapproved of it.

Ms. Santiago's book, even with the limitations we have mentioned, is a welcome addition to our better knowledge and understanding of Philippine history and the place in it of this important family.

New legal titles, fantasy books

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE JOSUE Bellosillo's "Omnibus Election Code with Rules of Procedure and Jurisprudence in Election Law" draws from more than 32 years of the retired justice's legal and judicial experience.

"As election laws are popularized and studied even more, may it contribute to the growth of knowledge of the substance and the procedure of how one's right to vote becomes the foothold of democratic governance in our country and of the continuing liberty of our people," Chief Justice Reynate Puno says in the foreword.

Milagros Santos Ong's "Philippine Legal

Research" teaches proper research techniques. Ong, a licensed lawyer, has a master's degree in library science and a master's in information science from the University of Sheffield in England.

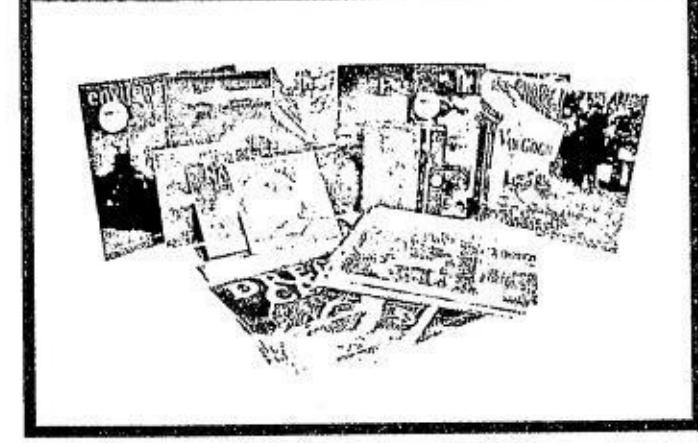
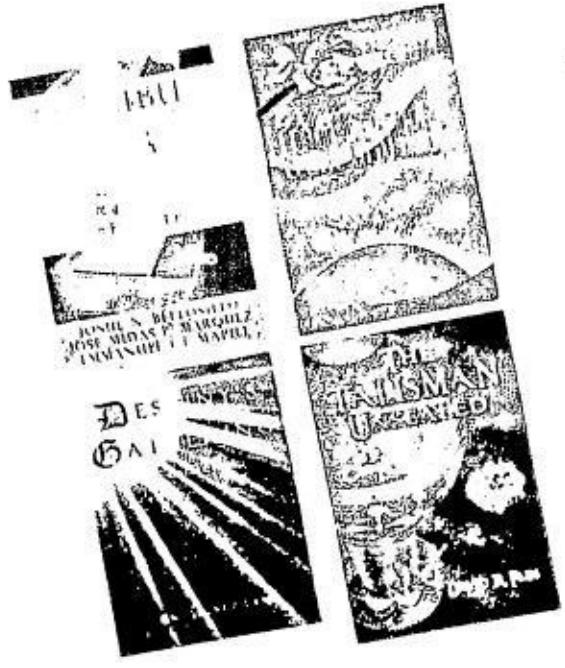
"Destiny's Gathering" and "The Talisman Unsealed" are fantasy books for young readers.

"Destiny's Gathering" is a tale of three friends whose search for a missing sword turns into a quest to save the world. The author, GK Galvez Tan, is a medicine student who started writing the novel when he was 11.

David Ples also started writing "The Talisman Unsealed" before his 14th birthday. It is

about time travel and a world voyage to find the lost seals of the "Talisman." The books are published by Centralbooks. A subsidiary of the Sibal Publishing group, Centralbooks offers the Publish-On-Demand and Book-On-Demand services for authors.

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P3,000 - JAN 9 - Bake & decorate your own character birthday cake using star tips, simple borders & long flowers.

P5,000 - JAN 10 - 11 - Wedding cake assembly: Bake & decorate your own 2 tiered wedding cake using fancy borders, scrolls, strings & icing flowers.

NEXT SCHED: FEB 4 - 8

3. JAN 14 - 17 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - ADVANCED GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD - (P 12,000)
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4. SATURDAYS // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - SUGAR FREE BAKING - (P 3,000)

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7. JAN 18 // 1:30 PM - 5:30 PM - NEW CAKES - (P 3,000) Petit fours, Moist yellow cake, Coconut Cake. **NEXT SCHED: FEB 16**

8. JAN 21 - 25 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - (P 14,000. For whole course)
P3,000 - JAN 21 - Cakes: plain, mocha, choco, pound cake, sponge cake, moist choco cake.

P3,000 - JAN 22 - Cakes & Roll: malacafang roll, chocolate roll, brownies, pineapple upside-down, custard cake, taisan.

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P3,000 - JAN 24 - Pies: Buko pie, custard pie, pineapple pie, apple pie, mango pie.

P3,000 - JAN 25 - Pastries & Cookies: cream puff, San Nicolas cookies, camachile, calmeal cookies, lengua de gallo, caconul macaroons.

NEXT SCHED: FEB 18 - 22

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P3,150 - JAN 29 - All Chiffon Cakes: Mango cake, Ube cake, Pisalchuk cake, Rocky Road cake, Coffee Crunch cake.

P3,150 - JAN 30 - All Butter Cakes: Butter Rum cake, Carrot cake, Kahlua cake, Moist Chocolate cake, Special Fruit cake.

P3,150 - JAN 31 - Cheesecakes: Blueberry, Mango, Tiramisu, Cookies & Cream, New York Cheesecake.

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RP bet leading 'Asian Idol' poll

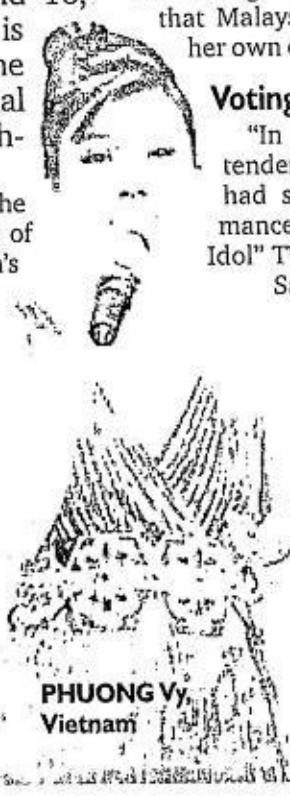
MAU Marcelo: 33.51 percent of votes cast

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

A WEEK BEFORE THE GRAND finals on Dec. 15 and 16, Filipina Mau Marcelo is leading the pack in an online poll conducted on the official "Asian Idol" website (www.theasiandidol.tv).

Marcelo has 33.51 percent of the 970 votes cast up till the evening of Dec. 8. She is followed by Vietnam's Phuong Vy, with 23.92 percent; Indonesia's Mike Mohede, 20.62 percent; Malaysia's Jaclyn Victor, 12.78 percent; Singapore's Hady Mirza, 8.04 percent; and India's Abhijeet Sawant, 1.13 percent.

Perci Intalan, ABC 5's head of Creative and Entertainment Production, told INQUIRER Entertainment that the result of the online poll was largely indicative of the contestants' current standing in the regional contest which is being held in Jakarta, Indonesia for the first time.



"Mau's closest competitor seems to be Vietnam's Phuong. Mike, on the other hand, was chosen by Indonesians in a contest among four local 'Idol' winners. I heard that Malaysia's Jaclyn is a superstar in her own country, though."

Voting system

"In sum, they're all strong contenders," explained Intalan who had seen the contestants' performance videos in the "Road to Asian Idol" TV special, aired on ABC 5 last Saturday.

According to the web site, viewers will be asked to vote for two contestants to eliminate "population size ... as a determining factor. It takes into account any potential national bias."

The system was formulated by FremantleMedia, "Idol" franchise holder, to ensure a level playing field. It's mathematical, Intalan agreed.

However, he disagreed

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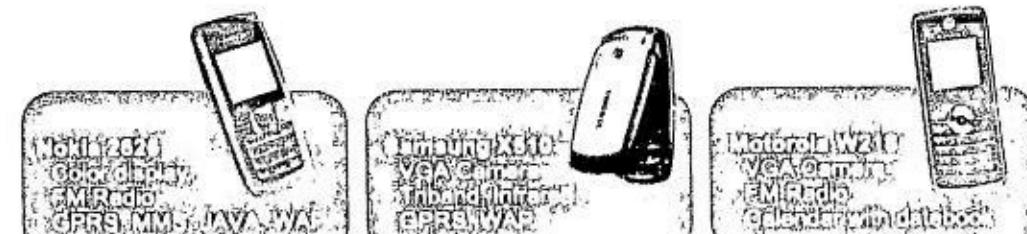
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MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2007

ENTERTAINMENT

While giving advice to fans, Amy far from forgiving Brix

By Marinel R. Cruz

IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY.

Amy Perez is miffed at the "disappearance" of Brix Feraris, father of her 10-year-old son Adi.

"Brix is such a big nuisance. I hope he realizes that this is not helping our child."

Amy said she had hoped to spend the Christmas season in the United States with Adi, but that she could not bring the boy without Brix's signature on the travel clearance.

"We heard he was in China so we called, but couldn't reach him. Now there's news that he's in America," Amy told *Inquirer* Entertainment in an interview at her home in Pasig City.

Outside of certain legalities and despite the musician Brix's absence (they split up seven years ago), Amy clarified that Adi is well taken care of. Her boyfriend, radio reporter Carlo Castillo, treats Adi like his own child, she said.

Pillar of strength

"They play basketball and go camping," Amy said. "Even Carlo's mom adores Adi. She picks Adi up whenever Carlo and I are busy."

Amy was 10 weeks pregnant when she suffered a miscarriage last January. She said she cried for a week. "Carlo was my pillar of strength," recalled Amy. "He told me there was a reason that it happened, and that we

should just be thankful I was alive and well."

They are trying to have a child again. Thus, Amy has decided to slow down at work. She currently hosts "Kabuhayang Swak na Swak" on ABS-CBN and the radio show "About Me and You" on dzMM. She also writes a newspaper column.

She is giving her show biz career three more years, she said, and then she might consider retirement. "I'd like to try having a quiet family life. But I want to continue writing my column and hosting my radio program."

Amy has been hosting "About Me and You" for more than two years now. She started as a pinch-hitter for anchor Roselle Manahan (Ms. M).

"This show gives me fulfillment," she said. "It makes me happy to know that Pinoyos from all over the world have made me a part of their lives."

For an hour every night, Amy talks about teenagers and overseas Filipino workers in "About Me and You."

Some of the subjects she has discussed on-air are: how to best handle a long-distance relationship, what to do if your boss is giving you a hard time, what to do if your best friend suddenly declares love for you.

"I encourage listeners to participate by reading their text messages or e-mail. I talk with some by phone, on the air."

There's not much money in either the radio show or the column, she admitted. "But it's very rewarding to share my views."

RP bet leading 'Asian Idol' poll

From page G1

with the strategy being proposed by some Filipinos in websites and blogs. "To help Mau, they suggest that voters pick Mau as first choice and the weakest candidate as second. The thing is, we have no way of knowing who's the weakest," he clarified.

In the end, the "Asian Idol" system renders the second choice as the more crucial vote, Intalan asserted.

He also cautioned Filipinos not to put Mau as their first and second choices because their votes would be deemed "invalid."

"If they only vote for Mau and leave the second slot empty, their votes will also be considered null and void," he said.

Details on the voting have yet to be finalized, said Intalan.

Needless to say, Filipinos can course their votes through all the local cell phone companies, he related.

The contest's web site also said that each county had been asked to send its own judge. An early list in Wikipedia named the following jurors: Indonesia's Indra Lesmana, India's Anu Malik, Malaysia's Paul Moss, Singapore's Ken Lim, Vietnam's Siu Black and the Philippines' Pilita Corrales.

Intalan also told the *Inquirer* that last year's "American Idol" winner Taylor Hicks, "Australian Idol" champ Guy Sebastian and Filipino band Rivermaya had been invited to perform in the regional tilt.



MIKE Mohede, Indonesia

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 CLOSED FOR A PRIVATE EVENT **3** ENCHANTED MTRCB GP 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30

2 GOLDEN COMPASS MTRCB PG 13 12:20, 3:20, 6:20, 9:20

4 THE KINGDOM MTRCB R-13 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00

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AMY Perez with her son Adi, whom she wanted to bring to the US for the Christmas break.

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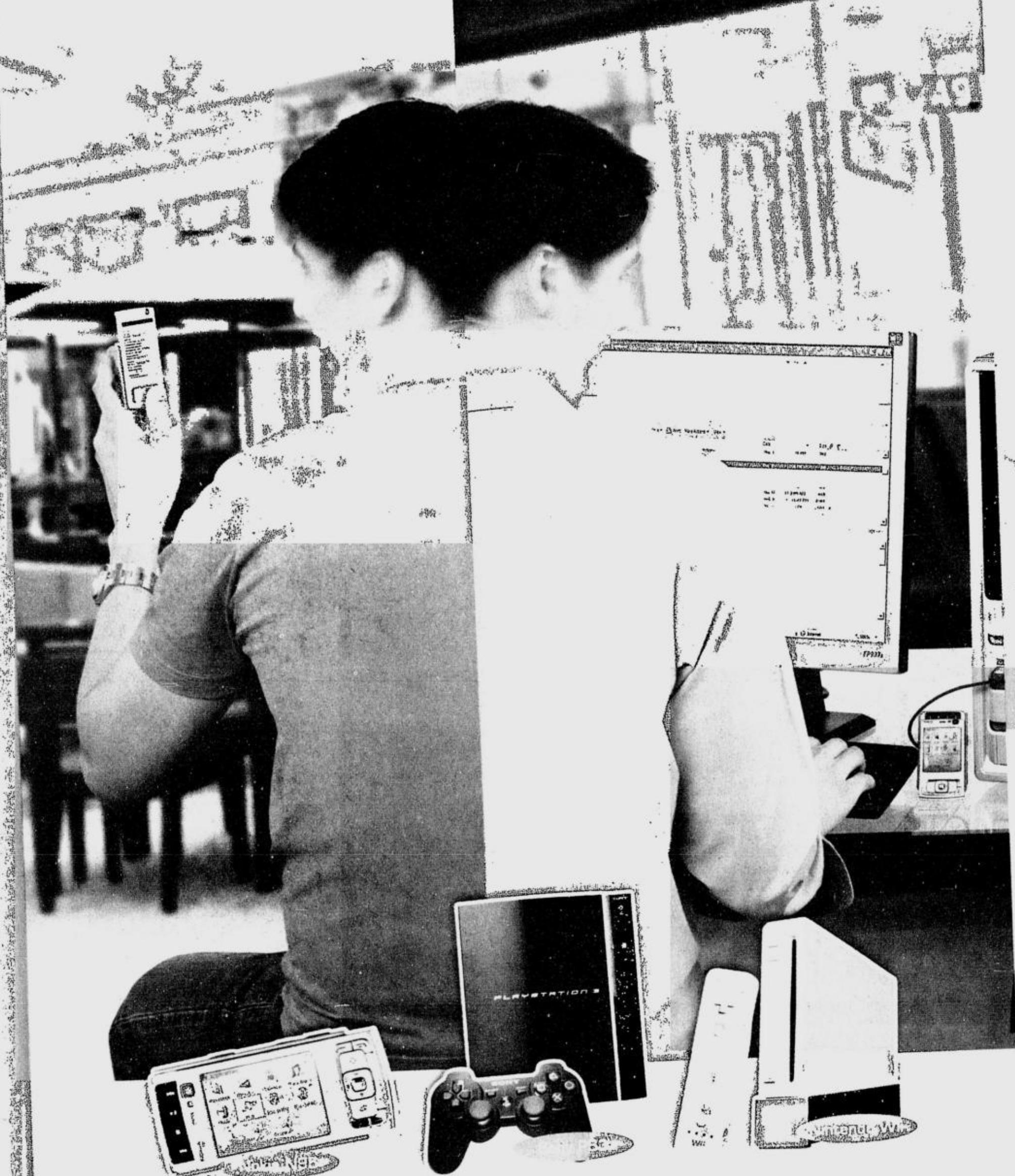
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MTV Summit set Wednesday

OUT OF SOME 40 ARTISTS performing at the "MTV Staying Alive Music Summit for HIV/Aids" on Wednesday, 4 p.m., at the SM Mall of Asia, five are relatively new names: Love Me Butch, Out of Body Special, Nameless Heroes, Day One Movement and Typecast. Log on to www.mtvphil.com.

Anti-piracy bodies kiss and make up

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE HEADS OF THE OPTICAL MEDIA Board and the Motion Picture Anti-Film Piracy Council, Inc. have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Oct. 25.

In spite of the raging word war between Sen. Bong Revilla and OMB head Edu Manzano, Council president Ric Camaligan clarified that the two bodies would continue with their crusade against piracy.

Previously at loggerheads, the two bodies have agreed to "cooperate"—particularly in the area of information sharing, said Camaligan.

This was confirmed by Manzano who told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone in-

terview on Wednesday: "We've agreed to share intelligence information."

Camaligan recounted that the MOU was signed in the presence of Sec. Cerge Remonde, head of the Presidential Management Staff, and Director Marietta Tamondong, also of the PMS.

Camaligan said that the MOU affirms that the Council, as a stakeholder in the movie industry, should be actively involved in the fight against piracy.

Meanwhile, the Council is pursuing its rewards program for moviegoers who report pirates copying movies in theaters with digital or cell phone cameras. The Council has awarded from P10,000 to P20,000 to at least 10 people since the program began five months ago.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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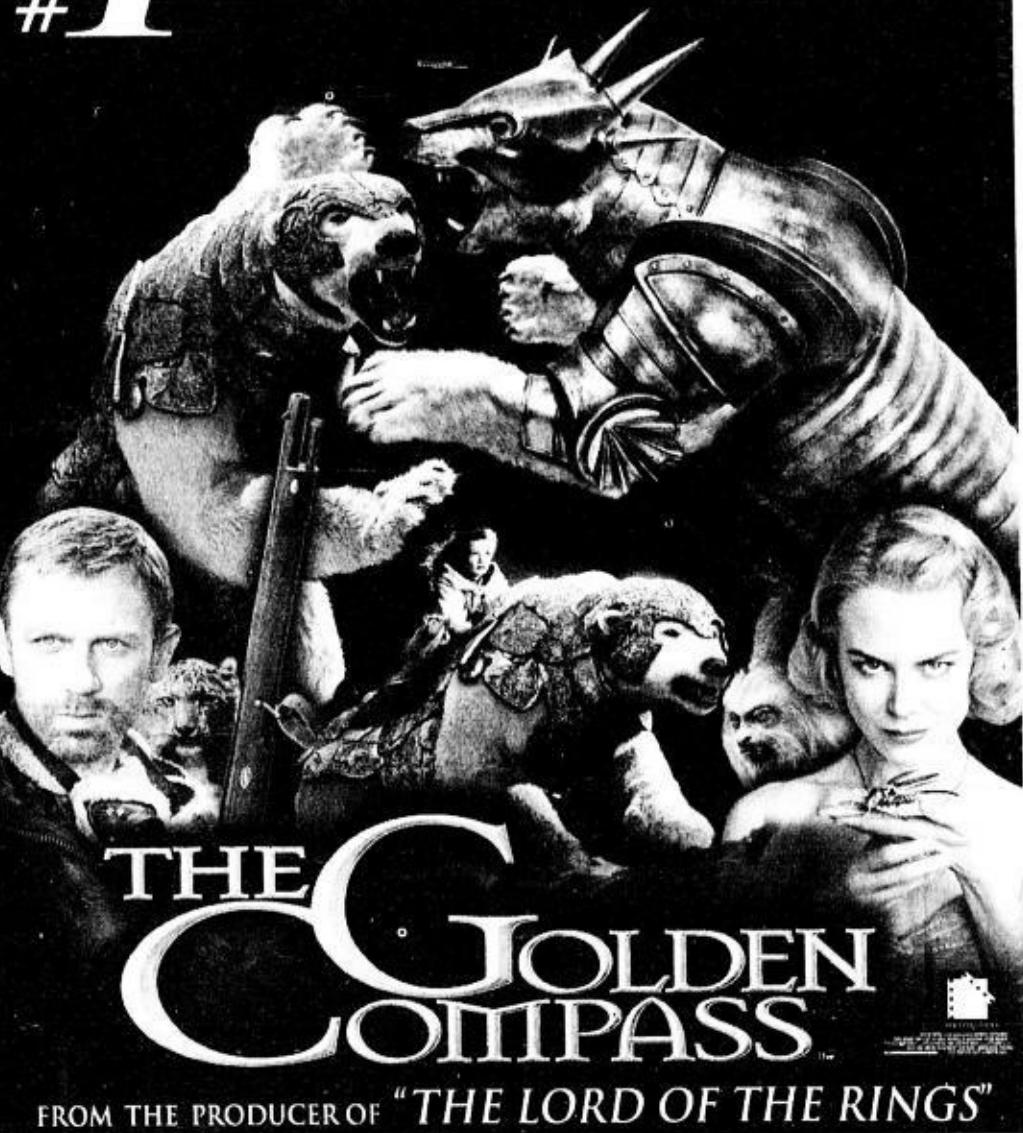
MTRCB ► PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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~ Ben Lyons / E!

#1 FILM OF THE YEAR!



FOR YOUR KISS
In the (Reuters News Pictures Service) Pictures of the Year 2007 folder is this one of Hollywood temptress Sharon Stone (above) risking body and limbs for a kiss with co-actor Richard Gere at the Cinema for Peace 2007 charity gala in Berlin, in February.



a film by Dennis Marasigan

CINEMALAYA 2007 Winner -
Best Screenplay

The mysterious death of a young village lass leads to the investigation of those who knew her and what they may have to gain from her death. Told from the perspectives of the different characters, the film examines how one's view may lead to varying interpretations of the same incidents.

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A, RIMA MALARAN, MARIETTE DE JESUS, JENNY V. MENDOZA, BLANCA GONZALES, BARDIAS
PEDEZA, SORILOZ, JAD ZEE, TIGER PEARL, DENIS MANGANAN, ANDREAS MATA, MARIA PAULINA MARAGASA
PRODUCED SORILOZ, BERNAMER, MALARAN, GONZALES, MARGA

Also this one of Jeff Bridges hugging Michelle Pfeiffer a tad too tightly during ceremonies on Aug. 6 unveiling Pfeiffer's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood. They co-starred in 1989's "The Fabulous Baker Boys."



AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by faxing SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

GLORIETTA 1	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	3 BATANES	4 PASUKOB
GLORIETTA 4	1 ENCHANTED	2 THE KINGDOM	3 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	4 GUARANTEED SEATS
	4 THE NAMESAKE	5 THE HITMAN	6 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	7 GONE BABY GONE
GREENBELT 1	1 ENCHANTED	2 THE GOLDEN COMPASS		
	1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	2 THE GOLDEN COMPASS		
GREENBELT 3	3 GONE BABY GONE	4 EASTERN PROMISE	5 FRED CLAUS	6 GUARANTEED SEATS
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	2 THE KINGDOM		
	3 EASTERN PROMISES	4 ENCHANTED	5 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	2 THE KINGDOM		
	1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	2 THE KINGDOM		
MARKET! MARKET!	3 ONE MORE CHANCE	4 BATANES	5 PASUKOB	
TRINOMA	1 BATANES	2 ONE MORE CHANCE	3 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	4 EASTERN PROMISES
	5 ENCHANTED	6 THE KINGDOM	7 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	8 GUARANTEED SEATS

AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Market! Market! - 886 7519Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala

Philippine Madrigal Singers
with Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez
December 8; 6pm; Glorietta 4 Park

The Dawn Jazz Nights
December 5; 7:30pm; Greenbelt 2 Al Fresco Area

Southern Musicians Concert
December 9; 5pm; Town Plaza

FREE Christmas Gift Bag for every P500 worth of purchase.
See leaflets for details. Per DTI-Cebu Permit No. 584, Series of 2007
December 1 to 31

MARKET! MARKET!

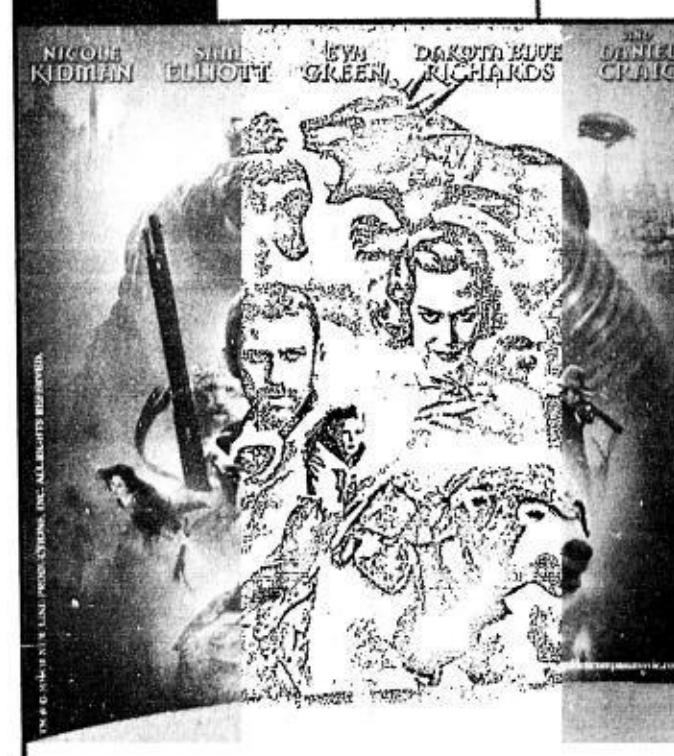
Christmas Shoes: A Christmas Musica
December 6; 7pm; Activity Center

Repertory Philippines presents FIDDLER ON THE ROOF
November 9 - December 16, 2007
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
or visit www.repertory-philippines.com

WATER: THE MEDIUM by Juvenal Sanso
November 24 to January 13, 2008; Ground Floor Gallery
For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

Christmas Chorale featuring Martin Nievera
December 6; 6pm; Activity Center

Rhythm Academy: Sam Concepcion with the Augustinian Larks
December 9; 6pm; Activity Center



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THE MUSICAL

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whimsical and musical Christmas!

Nikki Gil, Roxanne Barcelo
and Karylle
as The Cat in the Hat.



Market! Market! November 16 to 18
11:30 am, 3 pm, 6 pm
Concierge: 886-7519 - 1860

Alabang Town Center November 23 to 25
11:30 am, 3 pm, 6 pm
Concierge: 842-2782 - 1860

TriNoma December 1 and 2
11:30 am, 3 pm, 6:30 pm
Concierge: 901-3000 - 1000

Ayala Center Cebu December 7 to 9
11:30 am, 3 pm, 6 pm
Concierge: 032-231-5342 loc. 324

Glorietta December 12 to 14
11:30 am, 3 pm, 6 pm
Concierge: 752-7272

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

Aga still in mourning for mom's passing

AGA MUHLACH MISSES HIS BELOVED mom Anita who passed away recently. Morning (his pet name) is still in mourning.

"I had to stop shooting my movie with Anne Curtis," he sighs. "Di ko pa kaya. Tu-

migil ang mundo ko. I also have to lose a little more weight."

But he's slowly moving on. "I just comfort myself with the thought that my Mom is in a happier place," he says "Tayo, nandito pa

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OPENS DECEMBER 12

**DEATH IS THE FINAL DESTINATION
WHEN YOU CROSS THE DEMON'S PATH**



DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Anne Carvajal

Roxanne on Jake Cuenca: We rock

sa magulong mundo."

I've known Ags since his pre-*"Bagets"* days. I've seen how good a son he is. His mom didn't leave in vain. Everything Morning has become is the best tribute to Tita Anita. As he continues to shine, she will surely be watching over him, telling the angels, "That's my boy!"

No breakup

Roxanne Guinoo nixes rumors that she and Jake Cuenca have split up.

"Jake and I rock," she says. "We focus on work instead of getting affected by these issues."

So it isn't true that she got dead-drunk at a party because she was jealous of Denise Laurel?

"There was no reason for a jealousy attack," she insists. "I did drink to unwind. It was my first time to try hard drinks, so medyo na-tipsy ako."

If there's anything she's intoxicated with, it's

l'amour!

For all to see

Guess who this married young actor and single sexy actress are? They were seen kissing in a trendy bar; oblivious to onlookers. Unable to stop themselves, they proceeded to the pad of a mutual friend.

The actor's non-show biz wife is quite matay, so he'd better clean up his act. Was it just a one-night stand or is it a full-blown affair?

Where's the line?

"Batanes" boasts of splendid cinematography, but its story could have been given a deeper dimension. The film should have explored some aspects of the Ivatan culture instead of just focusing on the breathtaking sights.

Watching Iza Calzado's character, I began to question what I've always believed in, that deep feelings are not transferable. Where's the line between loving someone as a temporary substitute and as a suitable replacement for one great love lost? Must we settle for an Insignificant Other just to fill the void?

Cameo role

My love-struck "sistah," Dr. Vicki Belo, is thrilled that her BF, Dr. Hayden Kho, has a cameo role in *"Marimar."*

"The show biz bug has bit him," she beams. "I hope he's just in it for fun."

Hayden's heart will never be lost though because it has found its home in Vicki.

Going strong

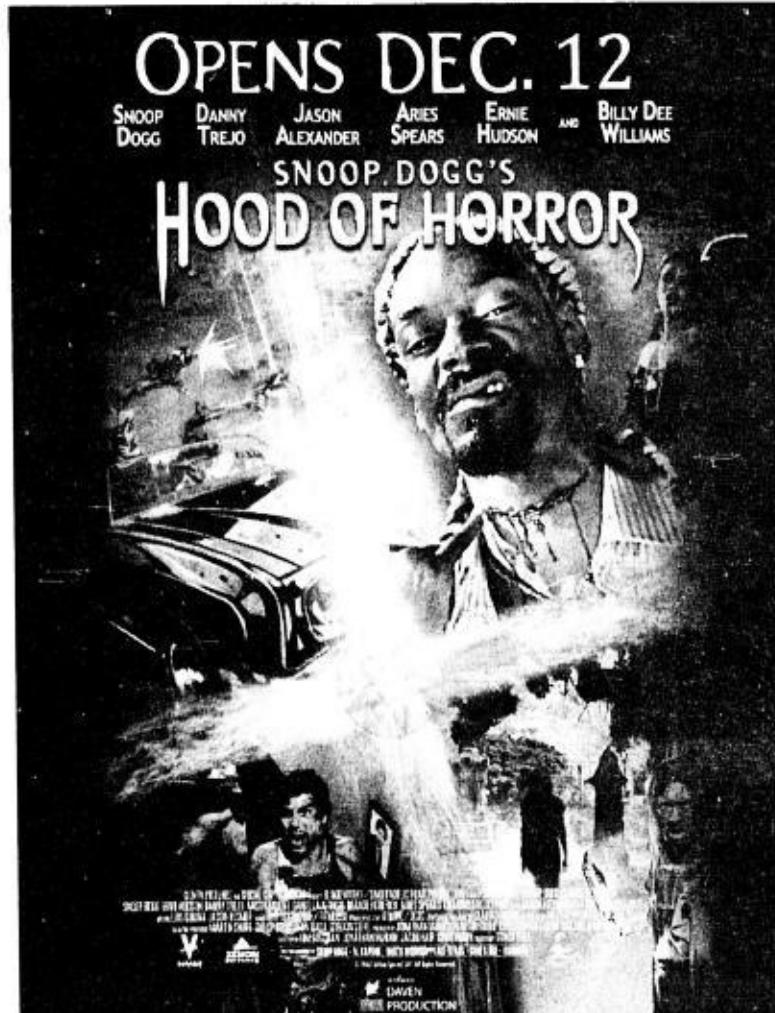
Pauleen Luna is overjoyed that her relationship with Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian is going strong. "He has taught me how to love unconditionally," she beams. In her multiply.com site, their sweet photos are labeled "I still have a million years to love Win. A bazillion heartbeats that will beat for him and a katrillion more kisses to be exchanged."

That's a whole lot of love.

Her life in music

Juday's 20 phenomenal years in show biz is immortalized in Star Records' *"Judy Ann Santos: Musika Ng Buhay Ko."* It's the soundtrack of her life, containing songs closest to her heart, like Ogie Alcasid's *"Kasama Kang Tumanda"* and Regine Velasquez's *"Ikaw Lamang."* The love of Juday's life, Ryan Agoncillo, was her fotog for the album cover and inside sleeves. Will they be working on a wedding songs CD next?

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.



PREMIERES TONIGHT!

Single Again

FALLING IN LOVE IS LIKE AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN.

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8 PM

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Asian 50
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Channel 11

Cebu / Davao Ch 27 Skycable Ch 24 Destiny Ch 15 Sun Ch 19

For Teeth's Sake!

Brush up on your toothbrush knowledge

It has been a familiar tool in your bathroom all your life - from the time milk teeth started jutting out of your young gums, even to the time you've lost all your real teeth and brushing your false dentures in your hand. Yes, the handy toothbrush has explored more of your mouth, and probably your personal grooming habits, than any other oral implement will ever do.

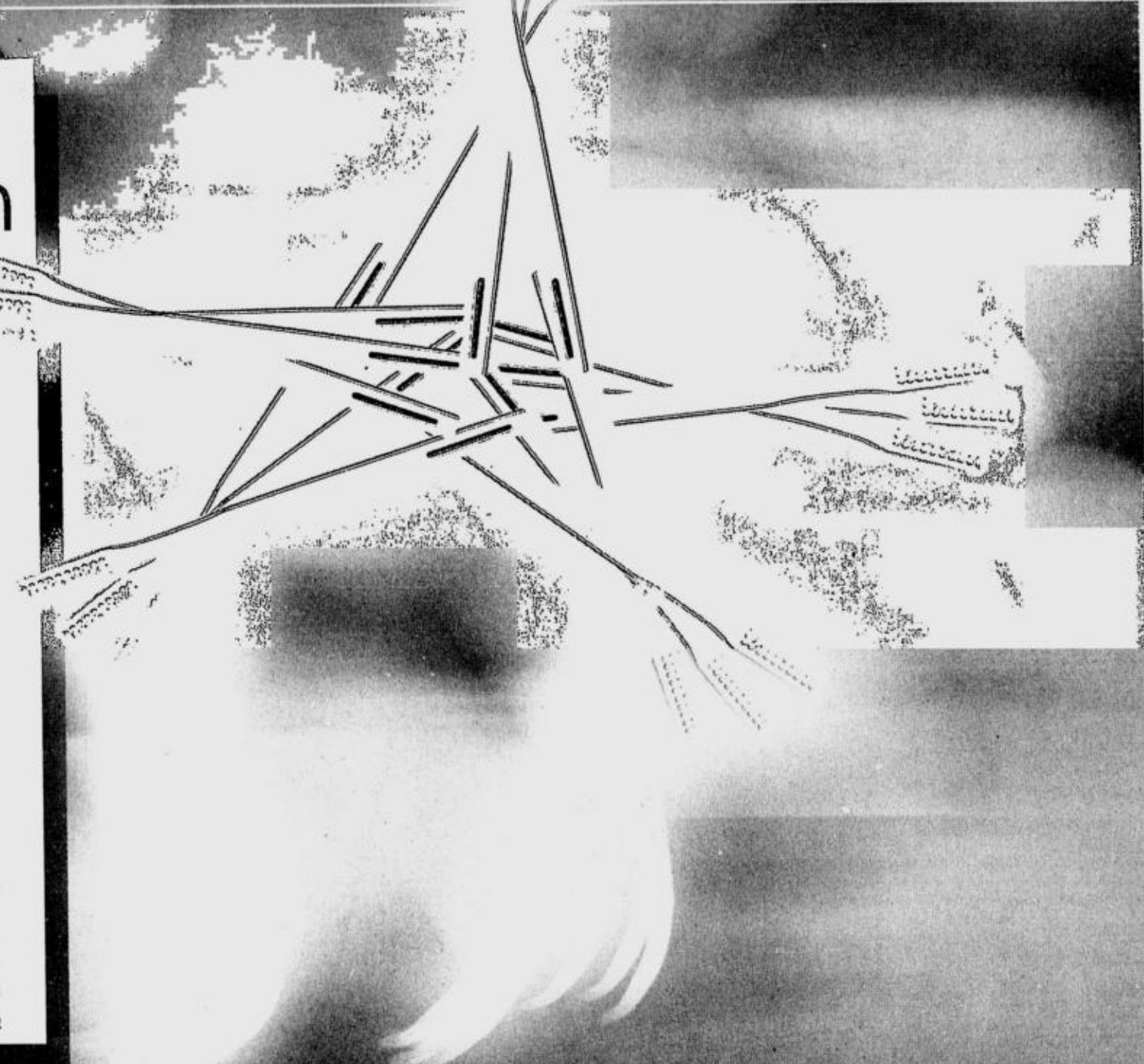
Without it, toothpaste loses its "bubbly" character (try putting toothpaste on your finger and rub your teeth with it - it's just not right). Sometimes, we "develop" a love relationship with a certain toothbrush that we absolutely hate to part with it (thus, running the bristles down to the base a year after). Ideally, a toothbrush is good for only three months. But then, "retired" toothbrushes retain their usefulness by becoming shoe brushes, or a brush for your neighborhood manicurist/pedicurist.

But how much do you know your toothbrush? Let's give this humble dental tool the respect it

deserves by getting to know more about one of the few things in life we feel we really can't do without.

Wikipedia, the free Internet encyclopedia, defines the toothbrush as an instrument used to clean teeth, consisting of a small brush on a handle. Toothpaste, often containing fluoride, is commonly added to a toothbrush to aid in cleaning. Toothbrushes are offered with varying textures of bristles, and come in many different sizes and forms. Most dentists recommend using a toothbrush labeled "soft", since firmer bristled toothbrushes can damage tooth enamel.

BRUSH/12



Christmas is merrier when your teeth shows! Brush after every Holiday meal

Teen Talk: It's a Hapee-world- of-Gels for us!

TEEN-AGE LIFE IS ALWAYS EXCITING, dramatic and fun. You're curious about so many things, you become suddenly conscious of the latest trends and you find yourself wanting to spend more and more time with your friends. Sometimes, your mood changes from happy to melancholic faster than you could even utter the words "High School Musical"!

Relax! Don't panic because it's all part of being a teen. You're starting to develop your own taste and develop your own choices from the food you eat, clothes you wear, music you listen to and brands you trust for personal care...yes, even your own choice of toothpaste!

Hapee toothgels offer four different flavors that will suit your mood anytime of the day. Feeling adventurous? You can try the blazing flavor of Hapee Explosive Menthol Red. It's the translucent sparkling red toothgel that gives you icy minty coolness

and fresh clean breath while cleaning your teeth. If you're in the mood for an outburst of green freshness with vivid strong mints, try Hapee Fresh Green Outburst. If you feel going for an outrageous cooling sensation, the sparkling blue toothgel with vitamin care action of Hapee Outrageous Blue Chill is best for you. It has an Ultracool component that keeps breath fresh longer. However, if you want to go for a fruity and healthy flavor, Hapee Mandarin Orange Blast will give you a flash of Vitamin C.

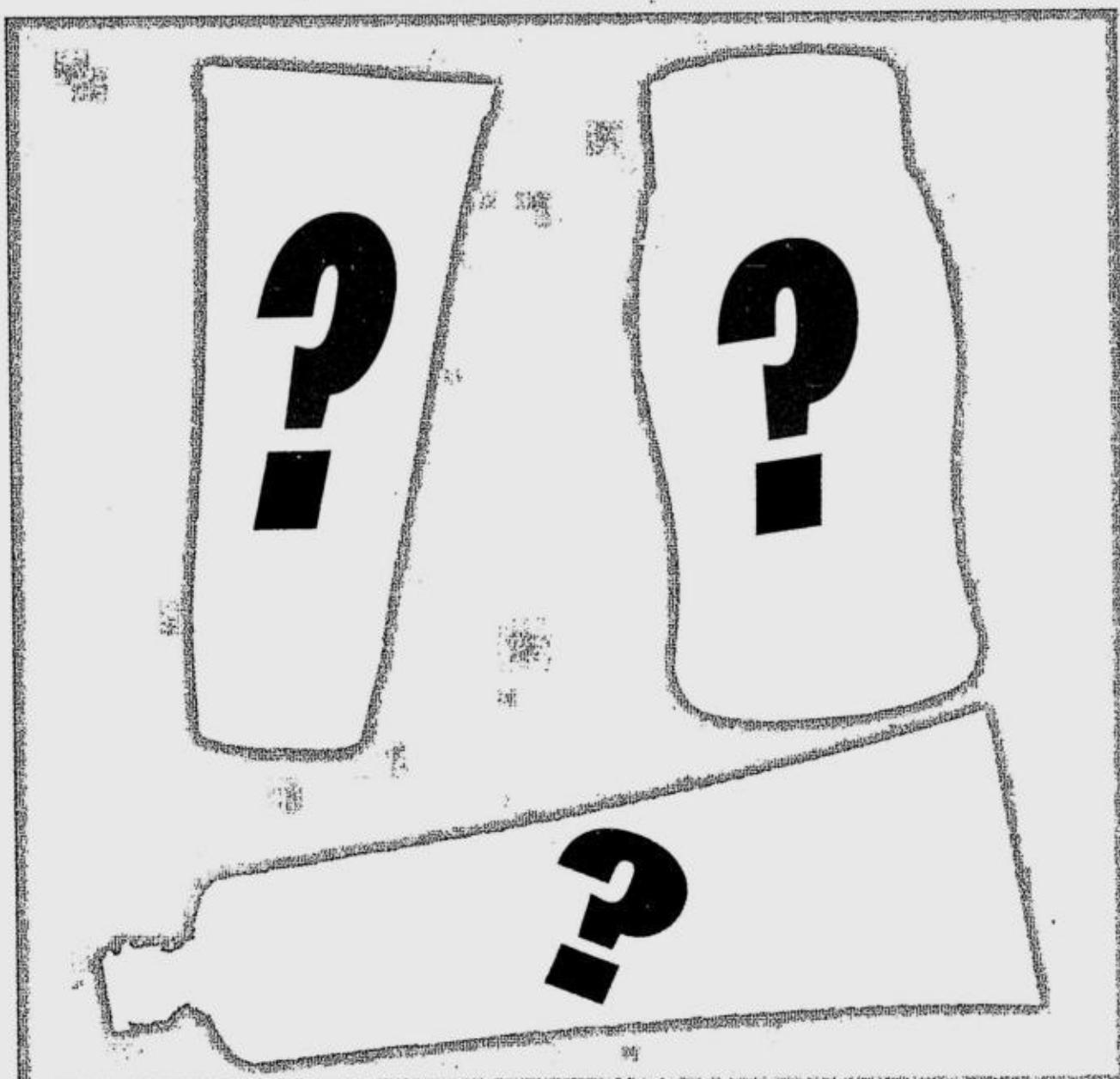
Hapee toothgels have the active ingredient of Sodium monofluorophosphate that gives the maximum fluoride protection to make sure your teeth are in good condition. And not only that, Hapee is the first Filipino toothpaste brand that earned the seal of approval from Philippine Dental Association (PDA).

So what are you waiting for? Grab the Hapee toothgel that matches you!



WHAT'S NEXT FROM

Hapee®?



**THE PHILIPPINES'
ORAL CARE SPECIALIST.**

Brush up on your toothbrush knowledge

From page II

and irritate gums as indicated by the American Dental Association. Toothbrushes are often made from synthetic fibers, although natural toothbrushes are also known in many parts of the world.

Bird feather, animal bones, porcupine quills?

A variety of oral hygiene measures have been used since before recorded history. This has been verified by various excavations done all over the world, in which toothpicks, chewsticks, tree twigs, strips of linen, bird feathers, animal bones and porcupine quills were recovered. The first modern idea of a toothbrush is believed to have been invented in China around 1600. However, many other peoples used different forms of toothbrushes. Ancient Indian medicine has used the neem tree and its products to create toothbrushes and similar products

for millennia. In the Muslim world, the miswak, or siwak, made from a twig or root with antiseptic properties is widely used. Rubbing baking

soda or chalk against the teeth was also common. Chewing sticks were first made by primates.

William Addis of England is credited with creating the first mass-produced toothbrush in 1780. In 1770 he had been placed in jail for causing a riot. While in prison, he decided that the method for teeth brushing of the time—rubbing a rag on one's teeth with soot and salt—could be improved. So he took a small animal bone, drilled small holes in it, obtained some bristles from a guard, tied them in tufts, then passed the bristles through the holes on the bone and glued them.

The first patent for a toothbrush was by HN Wadsworth in 1850 in the United States, but mass production of the product in America only started in 1885. The rather advanced design had a bone handle with holes bored into it for the Siberian Boar hair bristles. Boar wasn't an ideal material; it retained bacteria, it didn't dry well, and the bristles would often fall out of the brush. It wasn't until World War II, however, that the concept of brushing teeth really caught on in the US, partly because it was part of American soldiers' regular daily duty to clean their teeth. It was a practice that they brought back to their home life after the conclusion of the war.

Natural bristles (from animal hair) were replaced by synthetic fibers, usually nylon, by DuPont in 1938. The first nylon bristle toothbrush, made with nylon yarn, went on sale on Feb. 24, 1938. The first electric toothbrush, the Broxodent, was introduced by

the Bristol-Myers Company (now Bristol-Myers Squibb) at the centennial of the American Dental Association in 1959.

In January 2003, the toothbrush was selected as the number one invention Americans could not live without, beating out the automobile, computer, cell phone, and microwave oven, according to the Lemelson-MIT Invention Index.

Manual to electric

The first electric toothbrush was developed in 1939 in Scotland, but did not appear on the open market until the 1960s, when it was marketed as Broxodent in the United States by Squibb. In 1961, General Electric introduced a rechargeable cordless toothbrush that moved up and down when activated.

In 1987, the first rotary action toothbrush for home use, the Interplak, appeared in shops for the general public. There are currently many different varieties of models that use this mechanism. Research shows that they tend to be somewhat (but not extremely) more effective at removing plaque and preventing gingival bleeding than manual toothbrushes and vibrating toothbrushes.

'A variety of oral hygiene measures have been used since before recorded history. This has been verified by various excavations done all over the world'

The ADA recommends...

The American Dental Association (www.ada.org) has issued the following guidelines for dental care:

TOOTHBRUSHING PLAYS AN IMPORTANT everyday role for personal oral hygiene and effective plaque removal. Appropriate toothbrush care and maintenance are also important considerations for sound oral hygiene. The ADA recommends that consumers replace toothbrushes approximately every 3 to 4 months or sooner if the bristles become frayed with use.

In recent years, scientists have studied whether toothbrushes may harbor microorganisms that could cause oral and/or systemic infection. The oral cavity is home to hundreds of different types of microorganisms, therefore, it is not surprising that some of these microorganisms are transferred to a toothbrush during use. It may also be possible for microorganisms that are present in the environment where the toothbrush is stored to establish themselves on the brush.

The human body is constantly exposed to potentially harmful microbes. However, the body is normally able to defend itself against infections through a combination of passive and active mechanisms. Intact skin and mucous membranes function as a passive barrier to bacteria and other organisms. When these barriers are challenged or breached, active mechanisms such as enzymes, digestive acids, tears, white blood cells and antibodies come into play to protect the body from disease.

Although studies have shown that various microorganisms can grow on toothbrushes after use, and other studies have examined various methods to reduce the level of these bacteria, there is insufficient clinical evidence to support that bacterial growth on toothbrushes will lead to specific adverse oral or systemic health effects.

General recommendations for toothbrush care

The ADA and the Council on Scientific Affairs provide the following toothbrush care recommendations:

- Do not share toothbrushes. Sharing a toothbrush could result in an exchange of body fluids and/or microorganisms between the users of the toothbrush, placing the individuals involved at an increased risk for infections. This practice could be a particular concern for persons with compromised immune systems or existing infectious diseases.
- Thoroughly rinse toothbrushes with tap water after brushing to remove any remaining toothpaste and debris. Store the brush in an upright position if possible and allow the toothbrush to air-dry until used again. If more than one brush is stored in the same holder or area, keep the brushes separated to prevent cross-contamination.
- Do not routinely cover toothbrushes or store them in closed containers. A moist environment such as a closed container is more conducive to the growth of microorganisms than the open air.

- Replace toothbrushes at least every 3-4 months. The bristles become frayed and worn with use and cleaning effectiveness will decrease. Toothbrushes will wear out more rapidly depending on factors unique to each patient. Check brushes often for this type of wear and replace them more frequently if needed. Children's toothbrushes often need replacing more frequently than adult brushes.
- Cleaning methods beyond those outlined

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